

SOCCER

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GST INCLUSIVE

GLORY IN PERTH

By Daniel Kuziow

Alex Tobin brought further acclaim to his illustrious career when he racked up NSL game number 500, but it was not enough to inspire his Northern Spirit team who lost by three goals to current National League leaders the Perth Glory.

Glory took the lead in the 22nd minute with Damian Mori breaking his five-game drought in front of goals to score his 198th NSL goal. In the 59th minute he made it NSL goal 199 to have Perth two up and travelling nicely and Adrian Caceras notched up his debut NSL goal with a strike on 84 minutes.

On Friday, Marconi bounced back from last week's seven-goal humiliation to record a morale boosting two-one home victory against the Brisbane Strikers.

Form striker Anthony Roche had put Brisbane ahead in the 25th minute, but a brace of goals within four minutes of the games opener secured the points for the Stallions.

Joe Spiteri levelled the score on 29 minutes and only three minutes later Alex Brosque put Marconi ahead and that was the end of the

scoring on the night.

Wollongong brought some much-needed joy to their home fans with a hard fought win over Sydney United.



Joel Porter shown bustling through the South Melbourne. (Photo taken by Con Poulos).

The WIN Stadium victory ended the Wolves' run of four straight draws when Robbie Stanton converted from distance.

Dino Mennillo, made it 2-nil as the Wolves dominated

proceedings.

But on the stroke of half time the Sydneysiders pulled themselves back into the contest when Mile Jedinak converted after a goalkeeping blunder to set up a tense second half that the home team managed to weather for the precious win.

In Adelaide, Zoran Matic's unbeaten run as coach of Adelaide City came to an end courtesy of a come from behind victory to Newcastle United.

Things had started brightly for City when Italian striker Claudio Pelosi had given them an early two-nil lead but Newcastle responded with a first half goal from youngster Jobe Wheelhouse.

Into the second half, a disastrous own goal by City hero Aurelio Vidmar levelled the game and the visitors stole the game on 58 minutes when Ryan Griffiths fired home.

In the remaining Round 20 matches, the Greek derby between the Olympic Sharks and South Melbourne went down to the wire before the reigning titleholders emerged victorious by three goals to two.

Joel Porter gave the Toyota Park faithful the ideal start to the game when he scored after

only two minutes. But South were back on level terms within seven minutes when Peter Buljan brilliantly turned Andrew Durante inside out and calmly placed his shot across Clint Bolton and inside the far post.

The Sharks took the lead again in the 27th minute when Jeromy Harris jumped up to chest down a through ball on the edge of the penalty area, to swivel and shoot low and hard past Eugene Galekovic.

Vaughan Coveny once again brought the teams level with a goal on 58 minutes, but Sharks substitute Franco Parisi was to prove the hero when he struck six minutes from time.

A late goal also settled the match at Knights Stadium, with Harry Ngata securing a much-needed victory for the Kingz that has virtually ended the Knights top-six aspirations.

The Kingz, winless since Round 12, got off to a poor start when Jonathon Perry put the ball through his own net after 15 minutes. But the New Zealand side rallied and were rewarded three minutes into first half injury time through a goal from Andy Vlahos and victory was secured for the Kingz on 83 minutes when Ngata pounced to score.

FARINA SPRINGS UP SOCCEROO SUPRISES

By Mark Stavroulakis

Socceroo coach Frank Farina last week announced his 18-man squad to face England in London this month with a few surprises.

Vince Grella, Lucas Neill and Scott Chipperfield were the only new faces from the squad that faced Uruguay in November 2001.

Currently starring for Serie A club Empoli, Grella has been in great form this season and will look to establish a firm connection in the Socceroo midfield.

Recently returning from injury, FC Basel star Scott Chipperfield also did enough to earn his spot in the side.

Finally, Lucas Neill, who has starred in almost every Blackburn Rovers match this year was the final new face in Farina's squad.

Neill has been a main figure in Greame Souness' side this season and from all reports has impressed many officials in the Premier League.

Farina decided not to include Manchester City defender Danny Tiatto in the squad due to fitness concerns after the livewire Australian suffered a stomach injury.

It is by far one of the strongest squads the Socceroos have ever seen in recent years with many quality players fielding almost every position on the pitch.

Sven Goran Eriksson will also be looking towards fielding a strong squad even though Manchester United coach Alex Ferguson and Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger have pleaded with England's number one not to use that many players from their respective squads.

Eriksson will be looking towards announcing his squad on the eighth of this month whereby both Manchester United and Arsenal

players will most probably dominate the side.

Also, good news for Soccer Australia was the naming right sponsorship deal that was struck with Qantas last week.

(For more information on this issue turn to page 3)

It was firstly stated to the press by ABSW on the 14th of January by Richard Krieder that Adidas and Qantas were set to sign on with Soccer Australia.

This becomes the third sponsorship deal for SA in as many weeks with both Castlemaine and Adidas joining the list.

The Socceroo Squad is as follows:

GOALKEEPERS

- Mark Schwarzer Middlesbrough England
- Zeljko Kalac Perugia Italy

DEFENDERS

- Craig Moore Rangers Scotland
- Kevin Muscat Rangers Scotland
- Tony Popovic Crystal Palace England
- Tony Vidmar Middlesbrough England
- Lucas Neill Blackburn Rovers England

MIDFIELDERS

- Josip Skoko Racing Genk Belgium
- Marco Bresciano Parma Italy
- Scott Chipperfield FC Basel Switzerland
- Brett Emerton Feyenoord Netherlands
- Vince Grella Empoli Italy
- Stan Lazaridis Birmingham City England
- Paul Okon Leeds United England

STRIKERS

- Mark Viduka Leeds United England
- Harry Kewell Leeds United England
- Mile Sterjovski Lille France
- John Aloisi Athletic Osasuna Spain

ALEX TOBIN: THE NSL'S 500 MAN



It was a memorable day for Spirit defender Alex Tobin last Saturday evening as the former Socceroo skipper played out his 500th NSL Match against the Perth Glory.

Shown is Tobin being presented with a memento from the Secretary of the Soccer Administration of WA Rob Mackay.

Although his side were outdone by a tough Perth side, the day will be long remembered for Tobin's achievements in the National League.

For more reports on the man read on pages 8 & 18 on his sterling career in the National League and for the Socceroos.

POWER TAKE OUT GRADISCA TOURNAMENT

By Mark Stavroulakis

The first ever Gradisca Tournament was hailed as a success by many spectators and officials who witnessed this enthralling week of football whereby the youthful Parramatta Power side came up trumps with a three-two victory over Adelaide City at Marconi Stadium last Sunday evening.

Held once a year in Italy's north, the Power booked their ticket to Trieste in April representing Oceania.

The side will tackle a number of high-class youth sides from Europe, South America and Asia.

Judging from people's reactions towards the tournament, the indications are strong that this will only get better as bigger things are expected for next year's knock-out phase.

Eight side's competed for this year's spot in Gradisca with two groups who played

out their matches in Sydney and Canberra respectively.

Soccer Australia Chairman Remo Nogarotto applauded the tournament's organizer's with a job well done, especially to the man behind the idea who staged this youth event, Lorenzo Pastrello.



The victorious Parramatta Power side. (Photo by Carlos Furtado)

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AUSSIES ABROAD

BY DANIEL KUZIW

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With many of the domestic
Cup competitions reach-
ing important stages, Soccer
Australia have compiled a neat
list of Australians who have
just featured in their respective
contests.

In Italy, Zeljko Kalac contin-
ued his good run in the Perugia
first team, keeping yet another



**David Zdrilic: Scored
Walsall's winner in their FA
victory over Wimbledon.**

clean sheet as they beat Juventus
2-0 and 4-1 on aggregate to
advance to the semi finals.

In England, Socceroo defender
Tony Popovic helped Crystal
Palace to a 0-0 draw with
Liverpool, while David Zdrilic

was the hero in Walsall's cup win
over Wimbledon.

Unfortunately Lucas Neill and
Shaun Murphy saw their
Worthington Cup Final hopes dis-
appear when both Blackburn
Rovers and Sheffield United suf-
fered aggregate losses to
Manchester United and Liverpool
respectively.

In Scotland, Socceroo defend-
er Craig Moore managed to get
his name on the goalscorers list,
as Rangers won 3-0 against
Arbroath.

**Australian midfielder Kasey
Wehrman is pondering a
move to Molde or Lillestrom.**

The 25-year-old Aussie played
for Moss last season but is set to
leave the club after they were re-
legated.

He is waiting on an offer from
Molde after being offered a less-
than-ideal contract by Lillestrom.

"It is a three-year contract
(with Lillestrom). The first year is
ok, but the second and third year
I will earn less money than I do in
Moss. I don't understand why the
contract is like that," Wehrman
told Norwegian newspaper VG.

Wehrman will make a decision
on his future by next week.

"The clubs will have training
camps in Spain in a short while. I
would like to get to know my new
teammates. Within next week I
think I will have come to a con-



**Kasey Wehrman:
Pondering a move to either
Molde or Lillestrom.**

clusion," he added.
**Andrew Packer has returned
to Australia after he failed
to impress Millwall boss Mark
McGhee during a ten-day trial
with the Division One club.**

It was Packer's second trial in
the United Kingdom, following a
previous trial in Scotland with
Hearts last summer and despite
the midfielder failing to earn a
contract with the South East
London outfit, Lions assistant
manager Steve Gritt told the
club's official website that he was
pleased to have a closer look at
Packer.

Gritt said: "We were glad to
have an opportunity to be able to
take a closer look at Andy."

**Danny Milosevic is recover-
ing from a broken wrist
suffered in his first game on-
loan with Crewe Alexandra last
Saturday.**

The Leeds United goalkeeper
has returned to Elland Road after
breaking his wrist 48 minutes into
his Alex debut against Oldham
Athletic.

The Australia U23 internation-

al dived at the feet of an on-rush-
ing Oldham striker, but came off
second best and was rushed to
hospital that day.

It's the second time this season
Milosevic has had a loan spell cut
short with injury, having been
with Plymouth earlier in the sea-
son and suffered a knee injury
that forced him to return to Elland
Road for further treatment.

"I'm certain they would hate to
lose against us and I don't think
they can afford to lose against us.

"It would severely damage
their reputation across the world
and wouldn't do their confidence
any good going into two impor-
tant Euro 2004 qualifiers in
March.

"It's a game England have to
take seriously."



**Andrew Packer: The
Olympic Sharks midfielder
has returned to Australia
after failing to win a con-
tract at Millwall.**

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Australian U17 Squad Announced

**Australian National Youth
Coach Ange Postecoglou
last week named a 20-man
squad for next month's FIFA U-17
World Championship qualifying
tournament.**

Australia have been drawn along-
side Tahiti, Tonga, New Zealand,
Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in
Group B of the preliminary tourna-
ment, which will run from February
15-24. The winner of Group B will
playoff against the winner of Group
A, for the right to represent Oceania
at the FIFA Under 17 World
Championship, that will be played in
Finland from 13-30 August 2003.

The Australian Under 17 squad is:

Goalkeepers

Mario Aparicio (Queensland
Academy of Sport)
Nathan Hughes (Northern Spirit)

Defenders

Jacob Timpano (Wollongong
Wolves)
Nigel Boogard (Newcastle United)
Keegan Wolfenden (Australian
Institute of Sport)
Ben Griffin (Queensland
Academy of Sport)
Evan Karavitis (Victorian Institute
of Sport)
Yianni Saris (South Australian
Sports Institute)
Adrian Leijer (Victorian Institute
of Sport)

Midfielders

Eric Paartalu (NSW Institute of
Sport)
Kristian Sarkies (Victorian
Institute of Sport)
Dane Richardson (Queensland
Academy of Sport)
Angelo Martino (Parramatta
Power)
Lachlan Cahill (Olympic Sharks)
Oliver Totani (South Australian
Sports Institute)

Tim Smits (Queensland Academy
of Sport)

Richie Cardozo (Parramatta
Power)

Adam Casey (Australian Institute
of Sport)

The squad went into camp last
week leading up to the first group
match on February 15.

Upon settling on the final group of
20 players, Postecoglou expressed his
satisfaction with the quality of the
squad.

the past and they were all of a similar
quality, but I'm pretty happy with the
final group that we have."

"I'm in touch with most of the
players, with most of them playing
fairly regularly in the (NSL) Youth
League so they will all be in good
condition when they arrive. It will
just be a matter of bringing them
together as quickly as possible and
we will probably have a friendly
match in that week as well.

The good thing is that I have had

All Group B matches will be
played at the Maroochydore Regional
Soccer Centre on Queensland's
Sunshine Coast.

The fixtures for Australia are:

Saturday 15 February
Australia Vs Solomon Islands
- 2pm

Monday 17 February
Australia Vs Tahiti
- 4pm

Thursday 20 February
Australia Vs Vanuatu
- 2pm

Saturday 22 February
Australia Vs New Zealand
- 6pm

Monday 24 February
Australia Vs Tonga
- 4pm

Playoff matches are currently
scheduled for February 28 and March
5 with the Group A winner to host the
first match and the Group B winner to
host the second match.

Australia has an impressive record
at the FIFA U-17 World
Championship, highlighted by a 2nd
placing at the 1999 tournament in
New Zealand, where the team were
defeated in the final by Brazil in a
penalty shoot-out.



Future Australian stars from left-right: Jacob Timpano, Nathan Hughes, Eric Paartalu, Matthew Hilton & Richie Cardozo.

Forwards

Matthew Deegan (Australian
Institute of Sport)
Matthew Hilton (Olympic Sharks)

"I'm quite happy with the squad,"
said Postecoglou. "It was difficult to
cut it down to the bare 20 because we
had about 30-35 players in camp in

most of these players in camp before,
and hopefully it is just a matter of
them adjusting to what I want them to
do."

QANTAS JOINS SOCCER AUSTRALIA AS NAMING RIGHTS SPONSOR

Qantas will become synonymous with the future of Australian Soccer, with the airline becoming Naming Rights sponsor for all of the country's national soccer teams.

The airline's famous brand will make its first appearance with the national team when the Qantas Socceroos take on England in London on 12 February.

The sponsorship represents a significant long-term investment by Qantas in Soccer Australia until December 2006 and is a continuation of an ongoing partnership which has been in place for many years.

Soccer Australia Chairman Remo Nogarotto

said he was pleased that a world famous Australian icon such as Qantas was to be directly linked with the national teams until the end of 2006.

"The Board of Soccer Australia is extremely proud that we have been able to secure Qantas as the

"Qantas is currently in partnership with Soccer Australia, however this renegotiated and significantly increased commitment over the next four years will allow the Board to implement a more secure and long-term plan for all our national teams that will

to another level.

"Particularly through the National Soccer League, we have been a proud supporter of the game in Australia for a number of years," Mr Loader said.

"This is in line with major support of a wide range of Australian sporting, cultural and community organisations."

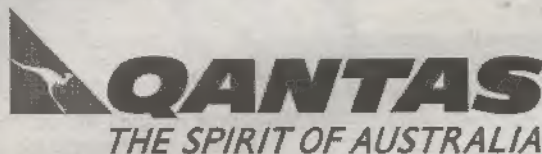
"This new sponsorship will see the airline significantly increase this commitment across the broad spectrum of the sport - from boys and girls participating at a grass roots level, to young players via development programs and the National Talent Identification Championships, on through the NSL and then to the pinnacle of the sport in Australia, our national teams, Qantas Matildas and Qantas Socceroos."

"As far as the Socceroos are concerned, the Qantas sponsorship will provide strong and vital assistance to Frank Farina and his players as they commence their four year goal to reach the 2006 FIFA World Cup

in Germany."

"Our support will even extend to the rapidly growing sport of Futsal (indoor soccer) and include the national team."

Qantas will also be the Official Airline of Soccer Australia.



The Naming Rights agreement involves all of Soccer Australia's national teams - the Qantas Socceroos, Qantas Matildas, Qantas Olyroos (under-23s), Qantas Young Socceroos, Qantas Joeys, Qantas Under-19s and the Qantas Futsal national team.

Qantas joins Castlemaine and Adidas as the other two sponsors towards the Socceroos and the Australian game.



Remo Nogarotto: Soccer Australia chairman was pleased that Qantas has come on board as the naming rights sponsor for all of the national squads.



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Warren fighting against cancer

Former Socceroo captain Johnny Warren has revealed he has cancer.

"We're doing reasonably well, we've been to hell and back, it was a huge shock as it started in November and we didn't get the results through until just before Christmas," he said.

"I went and did extensive tests, and the good news for me is that I can have the treatment in Australia.

"I'm back, I'm with friends and the advice from the doctors is to lead as normal a life as possible."

"It has been a huge shock and I've had a lot of support from a lot of people. It's been a tough, tough time," an



Socceroo great Johnny Warren is facing a battle against cancer.

emotional Warren added.

A member of the only Australian team to have played in the World Cup finals, in West Germany in 1974, Warren was diagnosed with the disease in November and has spent

time in the United States for tests.

His condition was diagnosed last November and since then he has undergone an intense battery of tests at the world-renowned MD Anderson cancer clinic in

Houston, Texas.

His treatment in Sydney is being conducted under the supervision of the MD Anderson clinic, where four-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong was successfully treated.

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Korean official disciplined

They are a demonstrative lot, the South Koreans. The republic's high-spirited and at times violent parliament was a prime example.

But when Korean passion overflowed to manhandling during a soccer match against the Matildas in Canberra yesterday it failed to impress. The Korean official who remonstrated with an assistant referee and shook her by the arms was last week disciplined.

He was suspended from sitting in the technical area for Korea's remaining two matches in the Australia Cup tournament.

A statement from the tournament committee which acted after hearing the match referee's report said the matter would also be referred to FIFA for further consideration.

No specific charge was detailed against the South Korean.

The statement simply said: "Referee Tammy Ogston abandoned the match after an incident involving South Korean official Mr Hyun Kon Cho and assistant referee Airlie Keen."

"It is also confirmed that the result stands, a 2-0 victory to Australia."

The Koreans were involved in a similar incident in last year's Australia Cup and Matildas coach Adrian Santrac said the behaviour could be a cultural characteristic.



South Korean players and officials shown leaving the ground after the match was abandoned due to a Korean official man-handling referee Tammy Ogston.

"It may be something that is part of their sporting culture," Santrac said from Canberra.

"Perhaps it is a tactic of disruption or a tactic that during these friendly internationals perhaps they view it as an opportunity to pull people aside to get a message through.

"Perhaps they feel the situation is not as formal as a major international tournament."

Santrac said the latest incident was not exclusive to the Matildas as the Hockeyroos had experienced similar problems with Korean teams.

"After we played South Korea

last year... I gave (then Hockeyroos coach) Ric Charlesworth a call and his comment to me was: 'Mate don't think you are special. When the Hockeyroos played them they did it all the time with us'."

Matildas co-vice captain Joanne Peters said the refereeing in Sunday's game was fine.

"We go out there and play the game and whatever circumstances come up we deal with them and get on with the game," Peters said.

"We've had those referees before and they are fine and they do the best they can."

Old head back at Knights

The Melbourne Knights have called on the expertise of former mentor Mirko Bazic as they attempt to force their way back in to the National Soccer League top six.

Bazic has been loosely appointed Knights director of coaching but is expected to take over the reigns of the senior side for the rest of the 2002/03 season.

"He has got a very good eye for young players. He can tell whether they are going to make it or not," Knights president Ange Citera told the Herald Sun.

At the conclusion of the current campaign, Bazic will be in charge of all football operations and will have a role in electing a new senior coach, after Andrew Marth's dismissal two weeks ago.

Former NSL Player of the Year Kresimir Marusic, who called an end to his playing career last year, has been touted as a possible candidate.

Although the Knights deny having spoken to Marusic, currently working at a coaching school in Sydney, about this.

Bazic, the 1995 NSL championship winning coach has severed



The Melbourne Knights will be hoping Mirko Bazic will steer the club to a hopeful top six finish this year.

ties with Croatian giant Dinamo Zagreb and the Knights hope he will arrive in time for Sunday's home game against the Football Kingz.

With the Knights' fiscal problems common knowledge, sceptics believe the Somers St club is living beyond its means by recalling Bazic but Citera is adamant that the club is being financially prudent.

"Bazic is not coming for big money," he said.

"At the moment he is virtually coming for a holiday. He's going to be here for 6-8 weeks and we're picking up the expenses. End of story.

"There's no money involved. I haven't offered him 50c. He wants to have a look at the whole set-up, see what we've got and what we need."

Wenger plea on Soccerroo friendly

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has called for some of his players to be left out of the England side to play Australia this month.

Wenger appealed to England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson to consider the physical demands on his men before naming his squad for the friendly match.

Senior Football Association officials have guaranteed Eriksson will be able to call on a full squad after he cancelled an earlier friendly as a concession to the Premier League clubs.

Arsenal and Manchester United players are expected to dominate the England squad, to be named on February 8.

The friendly will be played on February 12. On February 15, Arsenal and Manchester United play each other in the fifth round of the FA Cup, then continue their European Champions League campaigns in Europe on February 18.

"Obviously it's Sven's choice and he will want to pick his best squad," Wenger told London newspaper the Evening Standard.

"I cannot expect him to leave out all his best players. You cannot expect him to leave out the Arsenal players and not the Manchester United players, or leave out the United players but not those from Arsenal.

"They all face a physically

demanding time in the coming weeks and all you hope is that he uses commonsense when picking his squad."

Arsenal are likely to contribute David Seaman, Ashley Cole and Sol Campbell to the squad, alongside five Manchester United players - England captain David Beckham, Paul Scholes, Gary Neville, Nicky Butt and Rio Ferdinand.

The fixture congestion will affect Leeds United - home to Soccerroos Mark Viduka, Harry Kewell and Paul Okon - to a lesser extent as they are not in the Champions League and have yet to win through to the FA Cup fifth round.



Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger has pleaded with Sven Goran Eriksson not to use some of his players ahead of England's friendly match this month against the Soccerroos.

Glory face SA verdict

Perth Glory coach Mich d'Avray says he isn't worried Soccer Australia could decide his team's National Soccer League minor premiership chances.

The Glory face a hearing before the governing body on February 4, with the three points they won in round one against Parramatta Power on the line because they allegedly played German import Andre Gumprecht when he wasn't registered.

A loss of the round one points could give the Sharks the minor premiership, and six points for the start of the 10-week finals series, d'Avray told AAP he is resigned to whatever happens at the hearing.

"I'm not worried because there's nothing I can do to change it," d'Avray said.

"I'll be hugely disappointed if they do take three points from us because we've said all along there's no way we would ever field an unregistered player."



Perth Glory coach Mich d'Avray will await SA's decision as to whether the club will lose three points for fielding an unregistered player.

Tiatto a Roos doubt

Manchester City wing-back Danny Tiatto looks likely to miss the Soccerroos' friendly against England next month while Paul Okon seems set to silence his critics and lead the side.

Tiatto has been struggling with a stomach injury and has not played for City for some weeks, but is returned to full training last week.

Soccerroos coach Frank Farina revealed he had received an email from Tiatto asking him not to leave the player out, but Farina knows he will have to have a fully fit side to tackle Sven Goran Eriksson's side on February 12 at Upton Park.

"Danny has not been playing," Farina told The Daily Telegraph.

"He's still in my plans but it is getting closer to the game."

Farina has been faithful to Tiatto, who was one of the few European-based players to play in

the World Cup qualifying matches against New Zealand.

Tiatto's last international appearance was in the first of the two-legged play-off, in which he came on as a substitute but lasted just 18 minutes before he was sent off.

Farina has indicated that Paul Okon is the favourite to captain his country in the game after battling his way back into the Leeds United first team.

"Paul has certainly turned it all around and he's been playing very well."

"Leeds were going through a rough period until Terry brought Paul into the side. He [Venables] had to do something," added the coach.

Okon's change of fortune looks like delaying the debut of Empoli midfielder Vince Grella, who plays a similar role to that of the incumbent skipper.



Danny Tiatto could be left out of the Soccerroo squad at Upton Park due to injury.

Although Farina is expected to use Grella at some time in the Upton Park match.

"He has certainly gone ahead since the 2000 Olympics here."

"He's playing regularly with Empoli and in one of the toughest competitions in the world."

GALAXY CHASING OVERSEAS CONQUESTS

By Allan Crisp

Adelaide Galaxy could be fielding a National League strength team in the 2003 SA Premier League competition if its overseas recruiting plans succeed.

New Galaxy coach Alby Kidd has returned from an extensive overseas trip, having examined more contacts than an eye specialist.

Kidd, himself a former Scottish professional player with Brechin City, Arbroath, Motherwell, Dundee, Falkirk and Morton, has wooed two English, two Scottish and two Dutch players. If negotiations are successful, Galaxy hopes to lure four of the six candidates Down Under. Only one of the overseas prospects is nearing the end of his career, a 33-year-old Englishman, who is a proven goal scorer.

"He played much of his time in

Scotland, but is currently playing in England," said Kidd, who is reluctant to name any of the six players in case, "It all goes pear shaped."

"This guy was earning \$120,000 playing for Dunfermline two years ago," Kidd said.

"We set out to get two midfielders and two strikers, because defenders in the Premier League are much of a muchness."

"In my opinion, it is midfielders and strikers who win you league titles and trophies," Kidd said.

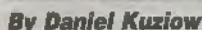
A major part of the Galaxy rebuilding process must be to replace regulars of last season, Jimmy Tsekini, Shane Thompson, Paul Pezos, Ben Moore, and Daniel Ferreira. Towards that aim, the Camden-based club has signed Ken Tosh, Simon Bernardino, Stephen Kidd and Louis Rodriguez.

While not participating in the

Bianco Summer Night Series, Galaxy has friendly pre-season games on its preparation agenda in Sydney and Brisbane. On the matter of the overseas recruits, Kidd believes he is 80 per cent over the line, but concedes that the other 20 per cent is, "A huge percentage."

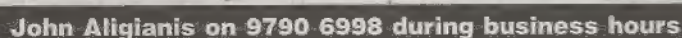
Galaxy won every conceivable trophy on offer last season, except the one that counts the Premier League Grand Final. Galaxy owner Con Makris has often stated that his aim is to be victorious on all fronts. Would the flamboyant property developer still be interested in fielding a team in the NSL?

In the opinion of Alby Kidd, the answer is in the affirmative. "I've been hired as the Premier League coach, but I'm sure that should the opportunity to gain a NSL spot arise, he (Makris) would jump on that bandwagon."



Last week with Parramatta having the bye, **ABSW** caught up the man enjoying a rare purple patch of form and started by asking him about the current mood in the club; "Confidence is very high at

Big Bad Buonavoglia has certainly found his goal scoring touch in the NSL this season.



AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY — FEBRUARY 4, 2003

National League Round 20 Reports


Marconi Stallions
2

Brisbane Strikers
1
By Joe Russo

After their worst game in history only five days earlier, it was a stunning reversal of form for Marconi who beat Brisbane Strikers 2-1 at home.

Parramatta Power had completely demolished the Stallions by seven goals but, with young Alex Brosque back in their line-up, things certainly turned around on Friday night at Marconi Stadium.

Sadly though the once loyal Marconi fans seem to have abandoned the team and it seems that the Friday night experiment isn't working. Traditionally their fixtures were played on a Saturday evening and perhaps some thought should be given to returning to that time. Despite a modest \$10.00 adult entrance fee, the

lowest of any club in the NSL, only 1,866 spectators bothered turning up.

It was a rare win though for the Marconi Stallions this season and, if it wasn't for their goalkeeper Michael Turnbull in the second half, Brisbane may well have equalised. However, despite the three points, the Stallions still remain on the bottom of the ladder.

Veteran Marconi coach, Rale Rasic, must have worked wonders during the week at training to restore confidence to his team. It was clear that against Parramatta Power the Stallions lacked self-belief especially after going behind. It wasn't to be more of the same this time around despite the fact that the Brisbane Strikers took the early lead.

Brisbane coach John Kosmina must wonder at how the wheels have recently fallen

off his team. A terrible home defeat against Melbourne Knights and now a loss to cellar-dwellers Marconi have all but sealed their fate this year. Brisbane Strikers have virtually kissed goodbye to their chances of a Top Six spot.

The game was the classical game of two halves - Marconi was the dominant team in the first half and Brisbane had the better of play in the second stanza.

The early Marconi chances were well saved by Brisbane's Jason Kearton in goal and it was against the run of play that the Strikers scored the opening goal.

In the 24th minute Turnbull cleared only as far as Jonathon McKain, arguably Brisbane's best, and his cross was well met by Anthony Roche who headed home.

The Stallions, undeservedly down by a goal, struck back

only four minutes later. Some nice lead-up work by Shane Webb provided Joe Spiteri with the ball and the Marconi striker, who was the best player on the field all night, beat Shane Stefanutto to the ball and clinically shot past Kearton in goal.

In the 31st minute Marconi took the lead and it was no more than they deserved. It was the Spiteri-Brosque show with the former back-heeling the ball for the latter to score and in the process beautifully rounding past goalkeeper Kearton before scoring.

In the second half, undoubtedly after Kosmina had fired his team up at half time, the Strikers had the better of play.

In the 52nd minute Turnbull beautifully denied McKain a headed goal and then later in the half denied replacement Joshua Rose a goal with another fine save.

In the 90th minute of what was a rather clean game Steven Laybutt got himself sent off for a silly challenge on Darren McDonald.

Marconi in the end were able

to hold on to their slender lead until the final whistle and their next game is on Friday night in Auckland against the Football

Kingz while the Strikers face Parramatta Power at Ballymore on Saturday night.



Stallions youngster Michael Thwaite contests with Strikers skipper Stuart McLaren for the ball during last Friday's encounter.


Wollongong Wolves
2

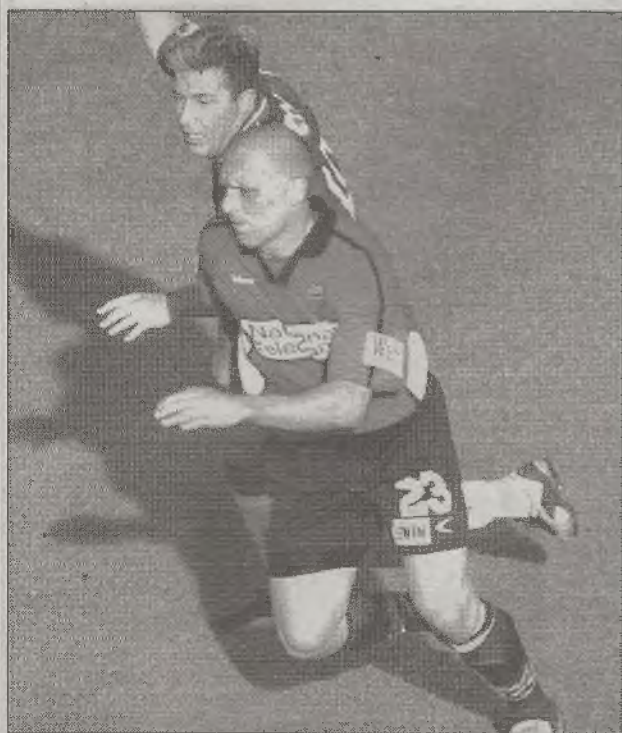
Sydney United
1
By Otto Bader

For once fortune favoured the Wolves side and after a struggle in the final minutes of the match, the win was secured much to the relief of coach Ron Corry.

Both coaches agreed the game was open with a number of chances being created but not always converted. United's striker Sean Babić was unable to make an impression or was perhaps blotted out by a solid defence.

Corry maintained the match was as expected a tough affair and even though his charges did not play to their best the three points were deserved.

It was not the purest of games and at times the Wolves lacked shape and full credit to United for their efforts in applying pressure to the home side. The first half was Wollongong's and they managed to score two goals. However a blunder by the Wolves keeper allowed United to score a vital goal with seconds to go until the half time whistle.



Wolves midfielder Dino Mennillo bagged his side's winning goal in their two-one win over Sydney United last Friday night.

Unfortunately the Wolves permitted United more freedom in the latter part and gave up valuable possession at periods.

Sydney United coach Tony Krslovic was disappointed and said his men left it too late admitting it was always to be tough at Wollongong with his side lacking somebody up front to finish.

The match started with a whirlwind of attacks by the Wolves and a great goal in the 4th minute from Robert Stanton, his second in two weeks, a low hard shot into the bottom corner of the net gave the United keeper no chance.

With all the play for the Wolves the second goal was a matter of time and Dino Mennillo obliged with another great long range shot low into the net in the 32nd minute. Several other opportunities were created but like Stuart Young's shot went all wide of the target. Without any warning a cross by the opposition attacker was fumbled by Wolves keeper Andrew Crews and an easy tap-in for United saw their hopes rejuvenated going into the break. This gave the visitors a lift and an interesting second half was foreseen.

The final five minutes were turbulent with the giant United keeper joining his attackers on corner kicks trying to bulldoze the ball into the net, leaving his goal exposed for a quick counterattack.

The home team survived the dangerous period and gratefully accepted the final whistle with the fans going home happy, a crowd of 3031 celebrated a 2:1 win.

The Wolves are now confident looking forward to pick up more points in the coming encounter, no matter who the opposition is.

No Wolves player received yellow cards while Sydney United received three cautions.


Adelaide City Force
2

Newcastle United
3
By Allan Crisp

Early in this incident packed game Adelaide City was fortunate not to have had a penalty awarded against it for a foul by Diego Pellegrini on Joel Griffiths.

The Force survived that claim, but thereafter "Murphy's Law" prevailed with a penalty being the only trauma not suffered by the home team as it crashed to the talented United side.

Even worse than the loss of three points came the red carding of Michael Valkanis after a second booking, a dreaded own goal, a yellow card to Pellegrini, who will join Valkanis on the suspended list, and injuries to Goran Lozanovski (calf) and Nick Budin (knee).

Before the unbeaten caretaker-coaching run of Zoran Matic was curtailed, Claudio Pelosi nodded and chipped the Force to a dream start with two superb goals in two inspired minutes of 12th and 13th minute action.

The fantastic good news came as Pelosi whipped home a splendid right wing cross from Force captain Ante Kovacevic and followed that with a cool chip to validate an equally accurate delivery from the left flank from young Lucas Pantelis.

The flashing white boots of Lozanovski loomed ominously before the former Olyrood limped off with an injury to be replaced by Matthew Kemp after 25 minutes. A minute after that key loss to the Force, Newcastle struck back as "Jinking" Joel Griffiths rammed a fierce drive against the far post allowing tall teenager Jobe Wheelhouse to score his first NSL goal in his third league appearance.

A graduate of the AIS, Wheelhouse, 17, supported his

youthful strikers Joel Griffiths and Ryan Griffiths, while creating havoc in the City defence.

After a slow start, Joe Schürripa created space on the left flank to become a strong contributor as Newcastle snatched momentum for the last 20 minutes of the first half.

That domination continued from the restart as United raided only to have Joel Griffiths and ex-City man Travis Dodd both miskick within sight of the Force goal.

Ryan Griffiths, who gained in stature as the drama unfolded, had a drive cleared off the goalline by Carl Veart before a Dodd corner kick was deflected into his own net off the head of Aurelio Vidmar.

With the score locked at 2-2, the Force rallied as a pass from Kemp was dummed by Pelosi, allowing Vidmar a clear sight of goal, but he ex-Socceroo clipped his drive narrowly wide of the target.

The defining moment arrived in the 58th minute as Dodd found Joel Griffiths, who relayed to his brother Ryan, who clipped in a memorable winning strike.

With 30 minutes left Matic and his counterpart Ian Crook called on experienced reserves as Argentine Mariano Aguero replaced Iain Fyfe, while Fiji international Esala Masi entered the fray for the injured Joel Griffiths.

Valkanis made a heroic goalline clearance three minutes before referee Ben Williams brought out his red card after issuing the former South Melbourne player with his second booking, this time for a foul on Dodd.

Four minutes of stoppage time brought feverish action as a powerful drive from Pantelis was gloved away by Daniel Beltrame into the path of Veart, but the veteran spun and miskicked, spurring a possible equaliser.

With the ball yet to be cleared from the packed goal area, young Budin crashed to the turf and was stretched off.

Never-say-die Veart battled to the end as he produced a withering rouchline run and cross, but the final whistle halted the salvage attempt.

"It's unbelievable the misfortune, if you could call it that, we had in one night, Force coach Zoran Matic said.

"But, that's life, we have to move on. There's no point in crying."

United coach Ian Crook was elated by the success of his under strength team. "We've come to one of the hardest places to win in the league without nine (regular) players and won.

"This is massive. This and last week beating the champions Olympic have been great wins.

"I'd like to turn around and say that it was all planned, but all you see today is all the fit bodies we had," Crook said.



Youngster Jobe Wheelhouse scored his debut goal for Newcastle United in their three-two away win against the Adelaide City Force.

National League Round 20 Reports

Olympic Sharks South Melbourne

By Peter Damalas

In one of the most exciting match-ups of the season, the Olympic Sharks defeated South Melbourne in a five goal thriller at Toyota Park.

After twice coming from behind to level the scores, the away side were helpless to stop substitute Franco Parisi, as he skipped past two defenders and slipped his finish below the diving 'keeper, Eugene Galekovic.

Result aside, the most pleasing aspect of the match for Olympic supporters was the manner in which the team approached the game. After losing to Newcastle in acrimonious circumstances last week, with talk of player discontent and controversial refereeing, the players responded right from the kick-off.

Man-of-the-match Joel Porter began the home team's brilliant onslaught with a run at the heart of the South Melbourne defence, and after a quick one-two with Jeromy Harris, forced Galekovic into a point blank save after only 17 seconds.

Moments later, striker Ante Milicic attempted to chip the goalkeeper, but his

effort was high.

It took Olympic three minutes to register the first goal. After Pondeljak played the ball down the inside right channel, winger Hiroyuki Ishida's shot at goal was saved and ballooned into the path of Porter, who bounced the ball into the net with his left foot.

Considering the home side's lack of form in the past month, with three losses out of four, the successful start confounded their critics and helped restore some of the damaged faith in the team's ability to play attractive football.

Some crisp passing from midfield enabled Milicic to have a shot at goal, which flew inches wide inside five minutes.

While South Melbourne were clearly rattled in defence, their attack was far better, and caused Olympic many headaches throughout the duration of the match.

The away team equalised in their very first foray upfield. After a fine run down the left from Young Soccerroo Massimo Murococa, the ball was played into the path of striker Peter Buljan, who with his back to the goal, turned his marker was able to score, despite having his shirt tugged.

While the goal caught Olympic and their supporters by surprise, it was hardly unexpected considering the history of encounters between the two.

Shades of the Round 7 fixture between the two sides, which finished 6-4 in favour of South Melbourne, was eminent as the game provided open, end-to-end entertainment.

Inspirational captain and Souths veteran, Paul Trimboli, was substituted early in proceedings with an injury to his right knee after a clash with Andrew Packer. His absence did little to deter the team's creative spirit however, and with Bill Damianos providing excellent delivery from set pieces, and Buljan holding the ball up well for the likes of Coveny and Murococa, South Melbourne were good money for at least a point.

Olympic forward, Jeromy Harris, scored one of the best goals of his career in the 27th minute.

As Packer chipped the ball to the edge of the penalty box, the striker had a difficult task to chest the ball down and create space for himself. He was able to move the ball sideways and his shot on the half-volley

mystified the goalkeeper and Olympic were 2-1 in front at the break.

The Sharks were stung into form after a bout of recent poor performances, and they played at their incisive best in this game.

While midfielder Wayne Srhoj (in for the injured playmaker Troy Halpin) played with vision in the first half, his lack of match fitness hurt his team's chances as he lost possession in the middle of the pitch to Damianos.

Racing towards the penalty box, Damianos played the ball to Buljan, whose initial attempt was blocked. The rebound



Young rising star Franco Parisi was Olympic's hero by scoring the winner in their three-two derby win over South Melbourne.

fell invitingly to Vaughan Coveny, who was on hand to score the second equaliser of the game.

Srhoj was immediately substituted by coach Gary Phillips.

South Melbourne looked set to hang on for the draw, with Iosifidis given a marking role on Ishida. They even looked like snatching all three points in the 83rd minute. With many players upfield, Olympic were caught out when Damianos and then Murococa were left unmarked on the overlap. Neither player could capitalise on their space, and the Sharks defence did well to regroup.

The stage was set for a piece of Parisi magic. Confronted by two defenders, the substitute simply dribbled past both and scored a magnificent and truly fitting match winner.

There were two more late opportunities for Olympic to score a fourth. First Porter went alone when a pass to Pondeljak was the better option, and then Parisi inexplicably found the boot of Mehmet Durakovic after he rounded the 'keeper and had the goal at his mercy.

The heart-stopping 3-2 victory is a good indication of where the defending champions find themselves this season. Sensing the minor premiership slipping away, Olympic began to show signs of improvement, and their hunger and urgency on Sunday evening must be interpreted as a warning to the other title contenders.

Melbourne Knights Football Kingz

By Alan Clark

Despite being out-played for all of the first half, and finishing the game with ten men, Football Kingz defeated Melbourne Knights by two goals to one at Knights Stadium on Sunday evening.

Knights had taken the lead from a Kingz' own goal, but Kingz fought back with a goal in first-half added time when Andy Vlahos followed up a free-kick taken by Patricio Almendra. Harry Ngata's late headed goal gave Kingz the win.

The win keeps Kingz' hopes of Finals action alive, such is the tightness of the competition for places in post-season action. Kingz' coach Ken Dugdale certainly believed his team's season was still alive. "It's going to be difficult, (but) as long as we show the spirit that we did in the second half, then we (might) be there at the death."

Knights' caretaker coach Simon Samardzic rued his team's missed opportunity to take control of the game, and strengthen its claim on Finals action. "It was one that got away," he said. "Mathematically the season is still there, so we've got a chance, but we blew (it) today."

The game started brightly with early shots from Knights' Daniel Rocco and Kingz' Chilean import Almendra ensuring both goalkeepers were kept on their toes. Rocco's shot from 25 metres whistled by Michael Utting's post with the Kiwi keeper diving at full stretch to cover, but Almendra's from a similar distance required a touch from Martin John to deflect it safely around the post for a corner.

Knights showed its attacking intentions throughout the early part of the game, and Henry Fa'arodo was unlucky to see his shot crash off the near post and away after he'd been first to a deflection from an earlier Lupo Lapsansky effort.

Fa'arodo, especially was causing the Kingz' defence some difficulties with his pace. Just before the quarter-hour, Fa'arodo had been brought down by Con Anthopoulos suspiciously close to the corner of the Kingz' penalty area, as he made a diagonal run towards the corner. From the resultant free-kick, Andrew Marth managed to ghost in close to Utting, only narrowly failing to get the touch that would have sent the ball into

the net. But the threatened goal was not long in arriving. Just on the quarter-hour, a clever move down the right resulted in a lay-off by Fa'arodo into the path of Gustavo Biscayzacu. The Uruguayan livewire put in a dangerous cross low and hard into the six-yard box where the unfortunate Perry steered it into his own net.

The pace and frequency of the Knights' forays required some tactical and personnel adjustment by Dugdale. Two quick substitutions eventuated, one of them being the hapless Perry, the other midfielder Darren Young. "Young struggled - he'd been sick before we went out, but we thought he'd be OK. And then John Perry got stomach cramps. When we got fresh legs on, we seemed to settle down a little," said Dugdale. "We'd weathered the storm, apart from the early goal."

Marth, whose last appearance in front of his own fans was as player-coach a fortnight before, but who had been dismissed from his coaching post shortly after, had started this game, but was substituted himself just after the half-hour.

"(Marth) had a pulled quad," said Samardzic, explaining that the substitution was required because of an injury.

Deep into first-half added time though, Kingz showed it wasn't dominance on the park, but what appears on the score-board that decides games. Captain Chris Jackson had been brought down 30 metres from goal. After a slight delay as referee Craig Zettler dealt with Jackson's petulant reaction, Almendra stood behind the ball ready to take the kick.

This was something the Chilean had practised on training grounds for much of his career. It showed. Almendra's shot bent around the wall, beat Johns, hit the underside of the bar, and rebounded conveniently into the path of the onrushing Vlahos who crashed it home from close-range.

After a half where their dominance was obvious, Knights ended it with no advantage.

Kingz had the greater part of play in the second half, but there were fewer scoring opportunities on offer until the game burst into life in the last ten minutes. The best for Kingz to that stage fell to top scorer Harry Ngata after an error by Isyan Erdogan gave away possession. Ngata's shot needed a touch from Johns to deflect it over the bar.

Knights' best came from Biscayzacu



Kingz striker Harry Ngata scored his side's winner in their two-one victory over the Knights last Sunday afternoon.

shortly afterwards from a free-kick near the edge of the area. The Uruguayan had earlier had two previous attempts sail harmlessly wide of the target, but this one would have found the top corner but for an athletic save from Utting. The Kiwi keeper banded his head in the process, and the game was halted for several minutes as he received treatment.

Dugdale said that Utting had required five stitches over his eyebrow after the game.

The Kingz however had the last laugh, as Ngata's late goal turned the result Kingz' way after he'd run behind the Knights' defence to head home from close in. James Pritchard had sent in a long cross from wide on the right.

"It was a replica of the last goal I'd scored against Marconi," said Ngata after the game. "I just ghosted in past the last defender - I think he just stopped, I don't know what he was doing - and it was a simple goal."

Biscayzacu came agonisingly close a minute before regulation time with a left-foot shot which was saved by Utting and ran onto the post. Fa'arodo followed up from an off-side position, but had found the side-netting anyway.

Kingz finished the game defending grimly, with just nine outfield players as Jackson had earned his second yellow card of the game after a clash with Fa'arodo. Jackson and Hiroshi Miyazawa, who picked up another yellow card, will be suspended for Kingz' next week's game against Marconi.

Perth Glory Northern Spirit

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory rained on Alex Tobin's monumental parade at Perth Oval last Saturday night after the league leaders conquered an injury-struck Northern Spirit side with a solid 3-0 score-line.

It was the former Adelaide City and Parramatta Power sweeper's 500th NSL game; truly a remarkable achievement and one that was marked by an official presentation prior to the commencement of the game. "It's obviously not the outcome that I would have wanted, but it's always difficult to come to Perth and get a result," said the former Soccerroo.

The match in fact, came extremely close to becoming a double event of epic proportions with Glory striker Damian Mori literally centimetres away from netting his 200th NSL goal.



Glory's gun striker Damian Mori was at his best last week scoring two goals in their three-nil victory over the Northern Spirit.

As for the game itself, it was a comfortable home victory only as far as goals scored and ascendancy was concerned but it was not a comfortable win playing wise, since both sides had to endure extremely hot and humid conditions.

"I thought the game was a bit scrappy at times," said Glory boss Mich d'Avray. "But you have got to spare a thought for my team. That is their second game in six days where they have had to play in very warm conditions." The Perth unit played Sydney United the previous weekend in 40-degree heat.

"We came here to have a go," said Spirit coach Lawrie McKinna. "I thought at times we kept possession reasonably well and had a couple of half-chances in the first period but overall Perth is a good team - great up front, solid at the back, their midfield makes great runs and get in the box and they are very hard to defend against."

The three-points from the win are a precious commodity because Perth has a hearing hanging over their heads regarding an alleged playing misdemeanour concerning German midfielder Andre Gumprecht. Glory also have their bye coming up next week followed by match ups with duo grand final nemesis's in Wollongong Wolves and Olympic Sharks the two weeks after that.

The opening goal strike came from the boot of Glory's Edgar after seven minutes which missed the left-hand upright by just metres and David Tarka then came closer seven minutes later when he climbed high and powerfully headed a Bobby Despotovski corner onto the Spirit crossbar.

The 16th minute should have seen Glory opening the scoring when debutant Anthony Danze set up Mori just six metres out but he amazingly skied his strike over the top when it would have been much more difficult to miss.

The pattern was set after those chances and it was just six minutes later when Mori eventually converted. Despotovski, who is playing some of his best football, slipped the perfect through-pass into the run of champion netbuster, and he didn't disappoint in finding the net.

The score remained the same at the break but the mould was already set, in terms of where the outcome of this match was heading.

Defender Alex Wilkinson had a game that he can be pleased with, as can Tobin and midfielder Noel Spencer. Stewart Petrie, who had only been in the country a week after leaving the snow of Scotland, did really well to survive 66 minutes of the sweltering conditions before wobbling out of the contest. Another Scot, the great Ian Ferguson wasn't so fortunate, since he had to be replaced in the 20th minute after failing to shrug off a hamstring strain which he picked up at training the day before.

The ex-Ranger's replacement, young Adam Kwasnik managed to give the almost 10,000 crowd a few glimpses of his huge potential but the day invariably belonged to Glory. Once again, it was a classy team effort, with top performances in all departments.

Mori's second goal came from yet another slick counter-attack and again the champion forward collected a quality ball from Despotovski before slipping the ball past Paul Henderson.

The Perth clubs third came from substitute Adrian Caceres who was only in the game two minutes when he found plenty of space to run into before releasing a fierce grass-burner from the edge of the box, which was too quick for the 'keeper to collect as it found the far reaches of the net.

The rest of the encounter saw Mori noticeably impatient about getting his double-century of league goals but he will simply have to wait another day. "The last few matches I've had a few chances and, that goes the same with this game; but I did manage to put the ball in the net twice this time, so I'm still quite happy," said a typically philosophical Mori.

BYE - PARRAMATTA POWER

Alex Tobin: THE NSL'S 500 MAN

In the most significant milestone reached by any national league footballer in the country, Alex Tobin played his 500th NSL match with the Northern Spirit against the Perth Glory at Perth.

The former Socceroo captain became the first player in any major Australian football competition to reach the 500 match mark.

The record appearanceholder in the AFL/VFL is Michael Tuck, who played 426 VFL games (all for Hawthorn) from 1972 to 1991, while the National Rugby League's record is held by Terry Lamb, with 349 NRL/NSWRL games played (for Canterbury and Western Suburbs) from 1980 to 1996.

Alex Tobin was born in Melbourne and moved to Adelaide at a young age. He began his NSL career in 1984 when he joined NSL club Adelaide City from local Adelaide team West Torrens Birkalla, now known as Adelaide Galaxy.

His first NSL match was against South Melbourne at Melbourne's Middle Park on 13 May 1984, with the 18-year-old soon establishing himself as a

regular for Adelaide City.

By 1986 he had gained his first NSL Championship medal when a then unfancied Adelaide City took out the 1986 NSL Grand Final against the Olympic Sharks.

For many years Tobin was the lynchpin of a formidable Adelaide City defence, which recouped two more NSL Championships in 1991/92 and 1993/94 - both times in Grand Finals against Melbourne Knights.

In both of these Grand Final victories, played at Melbourne's Olympic Park, Tobin was awarded the Marston Medal for player of the match.

Between 1989/90 and 1999/2000, he played in a record eleven consecutive NSL finals series, and it perhaps was no coincidence that Adelaide City missed out on a twelfth finals appearance in 2000/01 - the season Tobin moved on to the Parramatta Power.

After two seasons at Parramatta Power Tobin joined the Spirit for the start of this season.

Tobin's international record is just as prestigious as his domestic league career.

After previously representing

Australia at the Under 20 level, he made his international senior debut against Swedish club side Gothenburg in January 1988.

Two months later he played his first "A" international match, against Taiwan in Adelaide. By 1990 he had become an established national team player and was a regular starter for ten years, incorporating two World Cup campaigns.

From 1995 until 1998 he captained the Socceroos in 30 "A" internationals, including the 1998 World Cup near-miss. He played his last game for the



A true Australian legend - Alex Tobin shown in his Parramatta Power playing days.



Has grabbed the plaudits for playing his 500th match in the NSL.

national team in 1999 and had by this time tallied a massive 113 Socceroo appearances - including a record 87 matches in "A" internationals.

If ever a statistic was the measure of performance then the astounding 500 league match milestone is testament to a true legend of football in Australia. 500 matches does not just represent longevity, it also reflects a consistent reliability, dependability and of course, overall ability.

It will be a long time, if ever, before this record is reached by anyone else. Alex Tobin, Australian sport salutes you.

ALEX TOBIN'S NSL CAREER - SEASON BY SEASON

1984 to 1998/99 - Adelaide City Force - 1984 - 16 games
1985 - 12 games
1986 - 25 games
(CHAMPIONSHIP)
1987 - 24 games
1988 - 20 games
1989 - 21 games (Cup Winner)
89/90 - 26 games (Semi Finalist)
90/91 - 27 games (Preliminary Finalist)
91/92 - 30 games
(CHAMPIONSHIP and Cup Winner; Marston Medallist)
92/93 - 30 games (Grand Finalist)
93/94 - 31 games
(CHAMPIONSHIP; Marston Medallist)
94/95 - 26 games (Grand Finalist)
95/96 - 34 games (Preliminary Finalist)
96/97 - 29 games (Semi Finalist)
97/98 - 25 games (Semi Finalist)
98/99 - 29 games (Semi Finalist)
99/00 - 31 games (Semi Finalist)
2000/01 to 2001/02 - Parramatta Power
00/01 - 26 games
01/02 - 22 games
2002/03 - Northern Spirit
02/03 - 16 games
TOTAL NSL - 500 games

ALEX TOBIN'S INTERNATIONAL CAREER

"A" internationals: [1988-1998] 87 games (2 goals)
Other internationals: [1988-1999] 26 games (1 goal)
All internationals: [1988-1999] 113 games (3 goals)
Captain 1995 to 1999

VICTORIAN CHRONICLES



By Brendon Davis

Exodus From Sunshine

The mid season exodus from the Knights continues with stalwart defender Ivan Jolic "retiring" with immediate effect, despite having accumulated 99 NSL games.

Jolic made headlines recently when he was sent off against Marconi Stallions being accused of manhandling the match referee.

Other recent departures from Sommers Street include exciting Chilean striker Gustavo Biscayzacu who has elected to return home to participate in their domestic league, assistant coach Luciano Trani, Coach Andrew Marth and General Manager

Robert Hrzic.

Diplomatically Jolic said his retirement, one game short of a career milestone was intended to give the youngsters who are the future of this club - players like Daniel Rocco and Daniel Pierkowski - the chance to benefit from regular first-team football.

Jolic is expected to return to his former club, Victorian Premier League team St Albans although rival team Whittlesea Stallions have expressed an interest in the 28 year old.

Jolic will focus on his engineering career which has been hampered through his NSL days. While encouraged to play his 100th game by knights officials, he light heartedly told them his will be better remembered for playing 99 games.

Great Returns to Knights

Former Knights' coach and club legend Mirko Bazic will become Director of Coaching at the Knights in addition to overseeing the coaching of the club for the balance of the season.

He is currently in Croatia, his return to Melbourne is believed to have been delayed slightly by Visa complications.

Another former Knights star, Kresimir Marusic is the hot favourite to land the top coaching role at Sommers Street next season despite the Knights remaining adamant they have not yet spoken with

him. Eddie Krencevic has ruled himself out as a contender for the post.

However Knight General Manager John Ovcacic informed ABSW "we have not spoken to anyone - we won't do anything until Mirko (Bazic) arrives".

President Ange Cimera continued to oversee training as Socceroo defender Steve Horvat asked to concentrate on his playing and business interests.

Former coach Andrew Marth has again been left out of the squad for this weeks crunch encounter with the Kingz despite the retirement of Ivan Jolic. Given the performance of the players on the park last week, this is understandable and nothing further can be read into that according to Ovcacic.

South Fixture Change

South Round 25 fixture against the Brisbane Strikers has been bought forward - it will be played in February 12th with a 7:30pm kick off. This was forced by the Melbourne Grand Prix which occurs on March 9th, the initial date for the fixture.

Consequently South will face three games in 8 days with the Victorian Derby being the last of the three matches.

Melbourne Knights host South at Sommers Street on Sunday 16th February with a 6pm kick off.

No Victorians Transfers

South and the Knights are unlikely to take advantage of the current open transfer window.

At Sommers Street recruiting is on hold pending the return to Australia of new coaching director Mirko Bazic.

Across town, Danny Wright has been told by the South Board he can strengthen his squad "if there is anyone exceptional" he requires. Half way through the transfer period Wright has not identified any such "exceptional talent". Interestingly he decided against pursuing old boy Simon Colosimo.

Maintain Matches

The Victorian Clubs remain unified in their support for a retention of the prevailing minimum of 24 regular season fixtures.

Knights General Manager and Director John Ovcacic told ABSW his club may support delaying the season launch to November to avoid a clash with the AFL finals but financially we can't afford having fewer matches.

His sentiments are shared by South Melbourne who may also support a delay to the season launch subject to the number of matches being maintained.

SYDNEY UNITED PLAYING WITH A SOLE FOCUS

By Peter Damalas

The exit of Branko Culina from the hot seat at Sydney United has produced a mix of emotions from within the club.

While the form slump suffered in December did most to loosen Culina's hold on the position, with no obvious immediate successor, many pundits expected the club to retain his services until the end of the season.

However, the board and the coach's decision to part ways, indicated in a press release sent on Wednesday 22nd January, has forced the club to take a new direction.

Until the appointment of a head coach, youth team boss, Tony Pezzano, and former player, Tony Krslovic, will take the reigns. The 1-1 draw against competition leaders, Perth Glory, in their first outing was a positive step as United attempt to claw their way back into play-off contention.

The dual coaching set up will continue many of the trends set up by their predecessor.

"Certainly there is a difference between training ideas now compared to before Culina left, but overall there is not a lot that needs to be changed.

We need to pick up the tempo up front and score more goals" Pezzano said.

Pezzano said that he was happy to assist the club in any capacity.

"Our positions are entirely up to the board. Whatever they decide is fine by me. I am not a career coach, so I am happy to give the club time to find a standout applicant" he said.

Currently hovering in the lower half of the table with six rounds remaining,

Pezzano stated that missing out on the top six has not even been on the agenda.

"There is no reason to give up. We will need

around 33 points to finish in sixth spot and anything goes after that. At the beginning of the season, we planned for the regular competition, and then the next competition. While we've lost some useful players this season, the return of Bilokapic and Rudan will cause a nice selection headache considering the way we defended against Perth" he said.

Man of the match against the Glory, Mile Jedinak, received special praise from the interim coach. At eighteen years of age (youngest player in the senior squad), the defensive midfielder has been one of the standout players when given the opportunity.

"Jedinak has been thrown in at the deep end. He is playing like a man, and Sturm Graz have shown an interest. I'd like to see Angie

Postecoglou [national youth team coach] call him up for the Young Socceroos. He really held the midfield together in the absence of Nahuel Arrarte." Pezzano said.

Sydney United have made a habit out of developing natural talent. The Grand Final teams of 1997 and 1999 are a testament to the club's persistence with the youth set-up. Supporters will again be looking at the fresher players to move the team up the ladder. Sprinkled with experienced campaigners Paul Bilokapic, David Barrett and Croatian Bozidar Cacic to guide from the back, the likes of Brendan Santalab and Christian Cevenini may prosper in the next few years.

"Apart from five or six players, we have a very young squad. It is necessary for a club such as this one to nurture players, as we are not in a position to spend large sums of money to buy players. We've been raped of full squads on two occasions and have had to rebuild. Having said that, off the field we are in good shape and we are hoping of overhauling the youth system in the next year or two" he said.



Tony Pezzano (pictured) & Tony Krslovic will be the driving force behind Sydney United this season.



The International Academy Liverpool FC Coaching Symposium January 2003

Participating Coaches:

Tour Leader:

Richard Evans, Soccer NSW Manager of Coaching and Development Western Branch.

Coaches:

Gerry Davis Bankstown Under 14, Tim Wilson Southern Branch Under 11, Billy Kuzmanovski Mount Druit Under 21, Steven Sribinovski Illawarra Lions Head Coach, Gary Ibbotson Central Coast Under 15, Andrew Birchill Central Coast Under 15, Alex Prophet Camden Tigers Under 14, Peter Cambourne Lithgow Workmans Club Under 10, Danny Abboud Australian Futbol Academy, Tom Alexis Belmore Hercules Director of Coaching, Darryl Darke Australian Goalkeeper Academy, NSW Country Goalkeeper Coach, Peter Delaney Camden Falcons, Steinar Berthelsen Sagene / Oslo IF Norway.

The touring party left Sydney on Friday 3rd January arriving at London Heathrow on Saturday the 4th January at 8.45am in a mild snowstorm. After a short delay of 1 hour, due to the snow, we flew out of Heathrow bound for Manchester.

Upon our arrival at Manchester we were met by the International Academy representative Mr. Jeff Taylor and ushered onto a bus for Blackpool where we were to watch the Blackpool vs. Crystal Palace FA Cup match eventually won 2-1 by Crystal Palace.

After the game we boarded our bus, which stayed with us throughout the duration of our stay, for our hotel in Liverpool, which by then was a welcome relief after our long journey.

Our hosts had quite sensibly decided that Sunday was to be a rest day and an acclimatisation day getting used to the climate and the local environment.

Monday 6th January.

This morning our study tour began in earnest with a trip to the Liverpool Football Academy at Kirby. Here Mr. Stuart Gelling, Director of Community Football and the Under 12 Coach and Mr. Steve Hollis the Under 9 Coach met us. These two gentlemen were to be our hosts for the duration of our stay at the Liverpool Academy and the Liverpool Football Club.

After an introduction to the Academy we boarded our bus for a trip to Melwood the training centre for the Liverpool FC.

Due to the frozen grounds the first team squad were training in

an indoor astro turf centre with first team coach Sammy Lee and observed by Phil Thompson the assistant Manager, Hugh MaCauley the reserve team coach, Joe Corrigan the Goalkeeper coach and Jacques Chavallier the fitness coach.

There were 23 senior players in attendance with notable absentees Michael Owen and Patrick Berger who were receiving treatment for injuries. The session consisted of a "fun related" variety of skipping, jogging and general movement patterns through a number of cones set at random around the area. The players who had played yesterday against Manchester City left for a pool and massage session after about 1 hour.

The remainder of the squad stayed on for a passing and movement session all short sharp movements with many touches being encouraged and quality touches.

As our host Stuart Gellings pointed out, it is not rocket science but quality players doing the simple thing straight away and being encouraged to do it well. Hugh MaCauley then split the group into two groups of five with a ball each group and played "1 touch" and move "1 touch" and move encouraging quality at all times.

Sammy Lee then took over for a shooting session.

The session concluded with a 5 on 5 game with a floating player stressing shooting and rebounds.

After the finishing session the players went off to the pool and then for a massage.

Sammy Lee came over to meet the group and to introduce himself and to explain that fun and encouragement were big parts of his sessions he also mentioned that when the player's stretch they are not allowed to talk as it detracts from their concentration process.

We were then invited upstairs to the players lounge for lunch and an informal meeting with Phil Thompson the Assistant Manager who engaged in a very relaxed, light-hearted and informal discussion with us regarding the Liverpool of old and the new regimen with Gerrard Houlier at the helm. He confided that under Houlier nothing is left to chance with everything being checked two and three times, such as diet, no mobile phones at Melwood to encourage the players from different countries to mix and all to speak English.

We left Melwood with a feeling of having been very privileged to have been allowed to see what we had seen especially when you consider that the general public are not allowed into the Melwood training ground.

The afternoon session took us back to the Academy to watch

the "scholars" train. The "scholars" are the 16 to 19 year olds who have been given a professional scholarship when they turn 16.

The Academy motto "Technique, Attitude, Balance and Speed" is ever present in the lecture rooms and in the indoor training facility. The numbers of this group were reduced as nine of these scholars had been called to Melwood to train with the Reserves for a Reserve team fixture against Everton on Thursday.

When the full squad is present it totals 27 made up of Under 17 and Under 19 age groups.

The rest of the group were being trained by the Academy Director Mr. Steve Highway another former Liverpool player.

After the session we went to the lecture room to wait for Steve Highway to give us a talk on the Academy and its functions.

Steve spoke passionately about the Academy and its proud record of producing players for the first team squad, Owen, Fowler, Gerrard, Carragher, Mateo, Thompson and more recently Ian Mellor.

The Academy has squads of players in the following age groups 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and all these players, 9 to 12 have to live within 1 hour from the Academy and the 13 to 16 have to live within 1 and a half hours from the Academy. On their 16th birthday they can be offered a professional scholarship, which hopefully will take them through to the first team at 19.

"The best kids with the best coaches using the best facilities"

Steve Highway's lecture concluded with a coffee break and then we all went outside to watch the 9,10,11 and 12s training from 5.30pm to 7.30pm

Tuesday 7th January.

This morning we went straight to Anfield where we were to receive a lecture from Mr. Rick Parry the CEO. Instead of a lecture we were treated to a very frank and honest discussion all about the club, its finances, its goals and aspirations with the underlying theme being "its all about silverware" winning it that is.

Rick discussed the transfer window with its merits being it allowed for younger players to

come through and he also touched on the speculation about the proposed new ground at Stanley Park. He did not discount the possibility of a ground sharing with Everton FC.

The morning ended with lunch and a tour of the museum and the club shop.

After the shopping frenzy we headed off back to the Academy for a meeting with Mr. John Owens and Mr. Dave Shannon coaches of the Under 19 and Under 17 squads respectively

who spoke very openly regarding their duties within the Academy and their roles with the squads.

This evening we went to "The Theatre of Dreams Old Trafford" Manchester United vs. Blackburn Rovers Worthington Cup semi final. Result 1-1

Wednesday 8th January.

A free morning followed by a lecture at the Academy by Mr. Barry Whitbread (Head of Academy Recruitment)

During the lecture Barry covered the Background history of scouting, Recruitment structure, Qualities of a good scout, Talent identification possible performance indicators and a Task-Player assessment to be conducted on the Sheffield United vs Liverpool game that night.

After the lecture we boarded our bus for Sheffield to watch the Sheffield United vs. Liverpool Worthington Cup semi final. Result 2-1 Sheffield United.

Thursday 9th January.

A day of lectures at the Academy to day followed by training in the evening.

The Academy coaches, each year, are sent to different clubs in Europe to look at their coaching set ups and to compare with what they are doing at Liverpool.

Steve Hollis gave a presentation on his visit to Ajax of Amsterdam in Holland and Lee Congerton presented his findings on his trip to Juventus of Italy.

The two presentations were accompanied by a video display of the respective clubs and their facilities.

Following the lectures we

moved back to the indoor training centre to watch and participate in a Goalkeeping session conducted by the Academy Goalkeeping Coach Mr. Billy Stewart.

A welcome coffee break was followed by a presentation from Mr. Paul Lever the Academy Director in charge of the 9-14 age groups. Paul spoke about the recruitment and training regimens of these particular ages and how they should differ from that of the older player.

Training this evening was for the 11 and 12's with Stuart Gelling and Lee Congerton outside on the synthetic pitch and inside with the 13 and 14's.

Steve Highway the Academy Director took the session with the fourteens and it is his firm belief that this group are better than the group, which produced Owen, Gerrard, Carragher, Thompson, Mateo and Wright.

Friday 10th January.

A fitness session conducted by Mr. Julian Monk the Academy Fitness coach was our first port of call this morning at the Academy indoor training centre. Members of the touring party were asked to participate some accepted gladly, some graciously declined.

Julian went through a variety of warm up exercises and specific conditioning exercises for all the specific age groups looking at Resistance training and Speed, Agility and Quickness training. Comprehensive handouts were provided.

We then went into the small resistance training area where we looked at the Olympic lifts and derivatives and how they are used to develop the explosive player.

Clean & Jerk (Power cleans, Split cleans, Heave press, Heave jerk)

Snatch (Power snatch, Snatch balances) were some of the disciplines that Julian demonstrated for us.

Following on from lunch we met with Mr. Tim Devine the player welfare and education officer who described his position and that of the part that education plays in the player's welfare. "If you succeed at football an education will help you and make it more likely to succeed in life"

The "scholars" or "professional scholarship" players have to attend college every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings with training every Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon plus all day Tuesday and Thursday.

Second year scholars / Under 18 players also have to attend an FA Coaching Course as part of their education. The inescapable fact is that not every Academy player is going to make the

grade so they have to allow and prepare for failure as well as success.

The lecture was followed by coffee before moving outside to observe the Under 18 and 19 squad working on a new formation with their coach John Owens and Dave Shannon. In the evening we watched the 9 and 10 year old Academy players training followed by the end of week staff match which a number of the touring party participated in along with Steve Highway the Academy Director and Rick Parry the Club CEO.

Saturday 11th January.

This morning we were supposed to watch the Academy Under 17 & 19 play Sheffield United but due to the frozen grounds the games were postponed which meant a lay in for some, which was indeed a god-send.

The last official part of the tour was a trip back to Anfield to watch Liverpool vs Aston Villa a must win game which ended in a 1-1 draw.

Saturday night out in Liverpool and then on the bus Sunday morning for the trip back to London Heathrow to catch the flight back to Sydney.

In closing I would like to conclude by thanking the International Academy for allowing me the opportunity to take the group to the Liverpool FC and to leave you with some quotes from some of the coaches who participated:

Tim Wilson "a chance of a lifetime"

Steve Sribinovski "A fantastic exposure to top level Football"

Darryl Darke "Highly professional an opportunity of a lifetime"

Gerry Davis "A great incite into the philosophy of an English Premier League club. Open candid discussion of coaching methods with a high degree of formal and informal interaction with faculty and scholars"

Tom Alexis "Brilliant"

Peter Cambourne "A great learning experience."

Richard Evans: "Everywhere we went there was always an air of confidence in what they were doing and it was always conducted in a professional and enjoyable environment, with humour always evident."

"Once again thank you."

Richard A. Evans.
Manager of
Coaching & Development
Soccer NSW Western
Branch.

Letters to the Editor

TOBIN - A LEGEND!

Dear Sir,
Congratulations first and foremost to Alex Tobin on a remarkable run of 500 NSL games.

He is a true gentleman of the game and is the perfect ambassador for it. We have seen his noble and dignified nature throughout his long and industrious and this is reflected in his desire to stay and play in Australia when he could have quite easily tied his luck overseas.

I remember fondly his appearances in the green and gold and once again he was the perfect ambassador for the game and Australia in general. It is perhaps fitting that he also holds the record for the number of times to have represented Australia.

He did more than just play soccer and I recall when he was heading a Parramatta Power initiative of a fundraising BBQ at Parramatta

Station. He was superb in his actions and community service and used his standing as an athlete to benefit those less fortunate than himself when we have clearly seen that others



Alex Tobin

ers in the same situation as him would have neglected these actions.

No one else deserves this award more than Alex Tobin does. His commitment and passion towards the game have not wavered even after some 490 games. He has been a gentleman in every sense of the word both on and off the field and once again a reflection of this perhaps is the fact that of all the football codes played in Australia he is head and shoulders above the rest as the person to have played the longest.

He has given so much to the game and we should give some recognition to him and if I can do this by saying you are a worthy recipient to be the first player to make 500 NSL games then so be it.

Congratulations Alex Tobin!

Tim Lyon,
Port Macquarie, NSW

JOHNNY B ON FIRE!

Dear Sir,
What can I say about little John Buonavoglia.

Eight goals in the last four weeks have certainly silenced his doubters who have long regarded his size as an obstacle to cutting it in the league.

But last weekend we saw how clinically his size can be used to such an advantage against what can only be described as an appalling Marconi side. They lumbered around the part with absolutely no direction and were quite rightly thumped by seven goals to nil.

But more important I believe has been the form of Buonavoglia who is no doubt the in-form player of the league at the moment. He has always been a player who has played his own game despite his size and we have all seen just how devastating he can be.

While marvelling at his current

form, I think special mention should also be made to his persistence.

Coming into the season, the Power recruited heavily and as a result Buonavoglia was forced from the top of the pecking order. I have no doubt he would have taken this fairly hard, but credit should be given to him for hanging in there when it would have been just as easily to play in the reserves while still being paid his salary.

It is obvious he has the desire and passion to play at the highest level in Australia and we now all see the result of this. And boy what a result it is.

If I were Nick T, he would be the first name on the team sheet come the weekend since it has really been his form that have revived the Power.

Frank Crisco,
Merrylands, NSW



John Buonavoglia

REJECTION OF RELEASE BY WOLLONGONG WOLVES TO AIS

Dear Sir,
Dezmon & other players was offered trials at the AIS after the recent Under 16's identification games conducted at Parklea, the purpose of these games is to identify talented and elite players that will one day represent their country with pride.

Dezmon was one of three players chosen for three positions on offer.

His ambition is to one day play professionally, the thought of a full time scholarship was something that Dezmon could not refuse training twice daily going to school and mixing with other elite athletes is something any aspiring sports-minded teenager would die for.

In their wisdom and for what ever reason the Wollongong Wolves are adamant that a release is not possible. The argument is that Dezmon and I signed the registration for the 2002-2003 National Youth League season and we committed ourselves to the club for the entire season, something I have never argued against. And that they are unable to sign replacements.

Knowing very well that Dezmon at sixteen signed an Amateur registration form to be a fringe youth team player we both expected he may not start games we both agreed it would be the ideal learning curb. I did not expect this stance from a club that has always preached youth Development.

Dezmon has started one game this year for the youth team and that was because there were injury problems in the first team v Parramatta youth he was voted players player the following week he was in the stand in favour of someone who was out injured for months. He has also sat in the stands on three other occasions, (In football jargon not given a shirt). Is this Wollongong Wolves idea of youth development, why would they miss him.

FACT: Dezmon was instructed not to travel on the team bus to

Northern Spirit by the youth team coach Eddie Tesoro because he was not selected in the playing squad, a good team building exercise.

FACT: The AIS and similar institutes are government funded programmes put in place for the sole purpose of identifying, fostering, nurturing, and producing home grown Australian elite athletes capable of competing at international level.

FICTION: The Wollongong Wolves say they can offer Dezmon and others the same opportunities as the AIS.

FACT: The Wollongong Wolves did not communicate their intentions not to release Dezmon, I in fact made arrangements with the Wolves chairman for a meeting. They never returned my call, the chairman has since apologised.

FACT: Two directors told me that he did address the board on the issue.

FACT: Dezmon is currently living in Canberra training with his future teammates, however cannot play.

He has enrolled at the local high school and will sit for his higher school certificate in 2003, perhaps the Wolves do not see this as a critical factor in his decision to take the offer up, my wife and I certainly do, why would any student in their right mind contemplate six months of year twelve in Wollongong followed by the next six in Canberra.

FACT: Leighall Dellis ex-captain of the current youth team was offered a soccer scholarship in the US he flew out no questioned asked early January.

FACT: Dezmon relocates to Canberra to commence his scholarship on 6th January.

FACT: Dezmon emotional and physical state is being tested.

FACT: Dezmon has been given

an opportunity to pursue his dream.

FACT: Wollongong are denying him that opportunity.

FACT: Unless a release is granted, I find it highly unlikely Dezmon would return to the club he once loved.

FACT: School starts on the 3rd Feb 2003 in Canberra.

FACT: We are running out of time.

FACT: Dezmon is still awaiting his release.

I sincerely hope that the powers can put this into perspective and let true common sense prevail. Soccer Australia should treat each case on its merits for and against and not be persuaded by egotistical individuals trying to build their own empire, without having any real soccer interest at heart. Football in this country

can certainly do without this type of behaviour from so called soccer administrators.

Could Soccer Australia please take this case up as a matter of urgency I understand a players status committee is to convene to resolve the debacle, I

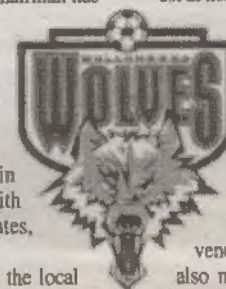
also make a plea to attend and give a fact to face account together with a chronology of events that have taken place as early as November when it became known by the Wolves that Dezmon was asked to attend a one-week trial in Canberra.

He has been ridiculed and crucified for being talented and not toeing the line i.e. (being dictated to) to put into the youth teams-coaches words go to Canberra and suffer the consequences, I am only now starting understand what those consequences are.

My son however, cannot understand any of it.

God bless Soccer, and God bless the Wollongong Wolves.

Robert Giraldi,
Corrimal, NSW.



KOREAN OUTRAGE

Dear Sir,
I was one of the thousand plus crowd that attended the match between our very own Matildas and the South Koreans in match that saw the game abandoned due to a Korean official manhandling an official.

I'd have to say that this is probably the worst incident I've seen close up for quite some time now and was shocked to see what had occurred in Canberra.

Known for being fiery, behaviour such as this must be outlawed

and it was only just that that particular Korean official was banned from any future developments with the National Team squad.

What made matters even worse was the fact that at the match, many youngsters were present, what kind of example is this for anyone wishing to partake in either the game itself or as an official.

I hope that this is the first and last we see such an incident in our country, we don't need it.

Josh Tanner
Canberra, ACT.

COACHING DILEMMAS

Dear Sir,
The nature of football hits all countries even the isolated country of Australia.

Much like European football is based on results and if performances are not up to scratch then the manager is the first to suffer, so too have we seen the same thing happening in the NSL last week.

Sydney United parted company with Branko Culina and although I would say that his results were not that bad to warrant a dismissal, the fact is that is the nature of football.

At the start of the season, Culina

was heralded as the saviour of Sydney United and after only some 20 games into the season, he and the club decided to part company.

And again last week the Knights parted with Andrew Marth as their coach.

His run of late I believe did warrant the need for dismissal after conceding some 12 goals in three weeks when last year the Knights had a

remarkable run into the finals.

This week Louis van Gaal was sacked as coach of Barcelona after a shocking run of domestic form in the Primera Liga.

His situation is not different to that of Andrew Marth; the stakes are just as high and the consequences are just as severe.

And much like anywhere around the world following the dismissal of

a coach, the side bounces back and scores a remarkable win. The Knights did this by trouncing the in-form Brisbane Strikers side.

While we should feel for these two men, I conclude by saying that this is the nature of the beast. These men knew what the price would be and well they paid it last week.

Vince Bastoni,
Carlingford, NSW

CHILDISH MILICIC

Dear Sir,
It was appalling to see the state of which Olympic Sharks striker Ante Milicic acted during their away clash against Newcastle United upon which the striker asked coach Garry Phillips to be substituted following an argument he had on the field with fellow player Troy Halpin.

I was present at the game and could not believe my eyes when Ante asked to be subbed! What kind of a player does that?

When the chips are down it seems as though that's when a player truly shines and at the moment he has pretty much changed my opinion on the player he really is.

I admire his skills and talent

for the game, I'm not doubting his ability either, however his behavior was rather childish and I hope that this is the first and last time we see any of these actions undertaken by an NSL player in our very own league.

Peter Loukas,
Malabar, NSW.

Triestina a legend that was in the post war era

Dear Sir,
Allow me to give you an insight of this legendary team of the 1934-1938 era whom my father had the distinction of having being part of, this wonder team which boasted such immortal players of that Italian era as Grezar, Trevisan, Rocco, Valcareggi, Pasinati, Colaussi etc. Triestina was known at that time as 'I Grieghi (the Greeks) has in fact never won a championship.

This was because of their notorious habits of selling their top players to the highest bidders namely to

Juventus, Torino, AC Milan, or Ambrosiana (now known as Inter Milan) in order to make a fast buck!

Players of such calibre as Rocco years later went on to coach successfully AC Milan in the late fifties and sixties was to gain the tag as El Paron the boss, by the AC Milan players.

Trieste's main stadium where the current second division leaders play all their home games bears his name the Nerreo Rocco Stadium. Valcareggi who became the national coach of the Azzurri in the 1970 World Cup held in Mexico.

Colaussi considered by many at that time was hailed as the best left-winger in the country scoring Italy's two goals against Hungary's 4-2 win in Paris in the 1938 World Cup final!

Let's not forget Cesare Maldini (father of Paolo Maldini Italy's captain for many years) also played for La Triestina in the 1950's later joined AC Milan, and also played many times for Italy, coached Italy in the 1998 World Cup held in France.

Claudio Barbato,
Canada Bay.

OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

BEFORE AND AFTER

Soccer Australia statistician Andrew Howe has made the tongue-in-cheek suggestion that each National Soccer League club should place a couple of dozen coaches on stand-by at the start of each season.

That mischievous comment was prompted by the fact that often when a club parts company with a coach, the team usually wins its next match under its new supremo.

Andrew points out that the recent cessation of the tenures of Andrew Marth at Melbourne Knights and Branko Culina at Sydney United brought to 201 the number of times a NSL coach has changed part way through a season since the league began in 1977.

The figure of 201 includes not just coaches being released or resigning, but those who have left often temporarily due to other reasons, such as personal matters or being absent on international duties.

The win-draw-loss record of the matches played immediately BEFORE a coach changed part way through a season (including for example the Melbourne Knights loss to Parramatta Power) is now 44-36-121: that is: there have been 44 wins, 121 losses and 36 draws in these 201 games.

As Andrew points out, this is an over whelmingly negative record.

Now for the other side of the coin. The win-draw-loss record of the matches played immediately AFTER a coach has changed part way through a season (including for example the recent Melbourne Knights win over Brisbane Strikers) is now 77 wins, 73 losses and 51 draws in these 201 games with "new coaches," producing a slightly positive overall record.

The deduction is that the change of coach routine really does work, but having a dozen coaches on stand-by could be a costly exercise.

History tells Andrew that the biggest win after a coaching change was 6-0 by Melbourne Knights over Marconi in December, 1990 (The Knights drew 1-1 the previous week) when George Hannah replaced Ante Grgic as Knights coach.

PEZOS AND GALAXY PART

State and Adelaide Galaxy defender Paul Spezos has left the club he captained for the past two seasons to join the Blue Eagles.

Pezos, 24, started training with the Eagles at the Marden Sports Complex on Wednesday and reported that he was greatly impressed by new Blues coach Dragan Sipka.

A former Ingle Farm junior player and regular State junior representative, Pezos was a member of the Australian Institute of Sport squad that toured South America.

He recalls that Brett Emerton, Clayton Zane, Simon Colosimo and Aaron Westervelt were some of his team-mates at the AIS.

Pezos, powerful and reliable in defence, played 57 NSL games for the West Adelaide Sharks from 1996-1999.

PAROCHIAL TO A FAULT

Parochial South Aussies are pleased to see South Australians Tony Vidmar, John Aloisi and Stan Lazaridis in the Soccerroo squad to face England.

Granted, Stan The Man, Lazaridis is strictly a West Australian, but since he played all his NSL games for West Adelaide Sharks, SA claims him as its own.

SA could be stretching a long bow, but there are those of us who reckon Racing Genk captain Josip Skoko also is a Sth Aussie because he was born in Mount Gambier.

Our State pride extends further with many wallowing in reflected glory after the selection of Yanni Saris, Oliver Totani and Matthew Deegan in Ange Postecoglou's National Under 17 squad for the FIFA World Championship qualifying tournament.

Defender Saris and midfielder Totani are SASI graduates, while striker Deegan is with the AIS.

Another SASI man, Keegan Nash is an unlucky non-starter in the Joeys squad as he is recovering from ankle surgery, but the Enfield Falcons player is hoping he should be OK by the time the real chips are down.

By the way, Totani is a proud member of the Raiders club, while Saris is with the Olympic FC club.

JETS FLY BY NIGHT

After losing its first round Bianco Summer Night Series 0-2 to the Blue Eagles, the Modbury Jets staged a remarkable form reversal to draw its second round encounter 2-2 with first round winner Olympic FC.

Modbury was heading for its second loss when it trailed Olympic by two John Spatharos goals, but Duane Gray's fighters

netted two goals in a late three minute burst.

Noah Albanese grabbed the first Jets goal with an 81st minute attempt and Alan Rusmur clattered in the equaliser by converting an 83rd minute penalty.

Promoted Croydon Kings shocked reigning Premier League champions Raiders by forcing a scoreless draw, but this was far from a dull match.

Raiders forward Jason Thmboli was red carded for allegedly elbowing an opponent, while Croydon midfielder Dusty McGregor was dismissed for allegedly retaliating after being fouled.

MetroStars rocketed to the top of Group A by downing Playford Patriots 4-1 to record its second win of the night series.

Former NSL striker with both Adelaide City and West Adelaide, Nathan Day blasted Metro into the lead in the 29th minute when he shot truly from the penalty spot.

Andy Gauntlett levelled for the Patriots five minutes after half time, but the irrepressible Day shoved the Stars back in front five minutes later.

New MetroStars signing Corey Artone and Michael Matricciani clinched the points with further strikes to stamp the Stars as an early tournament favourite.

Blue Eagles topped Enfield Falcons 2-1 in the battle of the birds in Wednesday's late match when Eagles coach Dragan Sipka was banished from the coaches box for running onto the field of play when one of his players was fouled.

Carl Guirguis got the Blues scoring under way before prolific goalscorer Mark Mulady maintained his reputation as a deadly finisher by levelling for Enfield.

But, it was left to left-footer Michael Pirone to score a stunning winner for the Blue Eagles with a magnificent right foot drive that sizzled into the Enfield net.

The full pointer, the second of the series

for the Blues, keeps the Eagles firmly entrenched at the peak of Group B

BIANCO NIGHT SERIES ROUND 2

Olympic FC 2 (Spatharos 2) Modbury Jets 2 (Albanese, Rusmur) Croydon Kings 0, Raiders 0.

MetroStars 4 (Day 2, Artone, Matricciani) Playford Patriots 1 (Gauntlett)

Blue Eagles 2 (M. Pirone, Guirguis) Enfield Falcons 1 (Mulady).

THIS WEEK BIANCO NIGHT SERIES

Wednesday, February 5

Marden Sports Complex

Croydon Kings v MetroStars (6pm)

Blue Eagles v Olympic FC (8pm)

Friday, February 7

Enfield Falcons v Modbury Jets (6pm)

Raiders v Playford Patriots (8pm)

SOUTHERN NIGHT SERIES THIS WEEK

Wednesday, February 5

Seaford Surfers v SASI

Noarlunga Bulldogs v Cobras

Friday, February 7

Enfield Under 23s v Hills Hawks

Noarlunga Under 23s v Western Strikers

Players defend Viduka

LEEDS United and Gillingham players have defended Soccerroo Mark Viduka over his sending-off in their FA Cup fourth round match.

Viduka faces a three-match ban for violent conduct after elbowing the first division club's player-manager Andy Hessenthaler last Saturday. But Leeds captain Dominic Matteo and Gillingham's Mali international Mamady Sidibe both said Viduka should have stayed on the field.

"If Mark had meant to do that, he'd have killed him," Matteo said.

"I thought he (Hessenthaler) made a meal of it, but I'd like to see it on TV again before I judge him."

Sidibe, who scored Gillingham's equaliser within minutes of Viduka's departure, said referee Neale Barry

had made a mistake.

"Viduka was very unlucky. It was not a red card," Sidibe said.

"They went for the ball together and it was an accident, no more than that. Maybe it was a yellow card, but that is all."

"I'm very sorry for him because it was not a bad foul but my coach was not pretending he was hurt either."

"Viduka is a nice man."

But Hessenthaler, sporting a red mark on his forehead, said he had no doubt it was deliberate.

"Viduka is a big six-footer and I'm only a small guy, yet he brought his arm down deliberately and caught me," he said.

The incident came almost a year to the day after Viduka was charged with violent conduct for elbowing Arsenal defender Martin Keown. He

was later cleared by an FA tribunal and escaped a three-match ban.



Mark Viduka: Leeds star saw red against Gillingham in their fourth round FA Cup clash.

Lazaridis hails French striker

SOCCEROO Stan Lazaridis has proved himself a rare creative talent in the humdrum Birmingham City midfield this season, and is licking his lips at the arrival of France's World Cup-winning striker Christophe Dugarry.

The 30-year-old looks to have conceded he will be staying at the strugglers after interest from Sunderland and cash-strapped Leeds petered out but said with the arrival of Dugarry, also 30, sees himself getting the ball more often. Lazaridis, who joined Birmingham in 1999 for £1.7 million (\$4.68m) from West Ham, has created more goals than any other player this season and is looking forward to setting up many more now he has also recovered from a groin injury.

Despite only training once after getting over the groin problem before



Stan Lazaridis

being launched into Premiership action by manager Steve Bruce against Blackburn 10 days ago, Lazaridis set up the equaliser in the 1-1 draw for Stern John.

"It's nice if people say I've helped create a lot of goals but that's what I get

paid for," Lazaridis told the Birmingham Evening Mail.

"My job is to keep supplying Stern John, Clinton Morrison, Jovan Kirovski and Geoff Horsfield.

"At Blackburn, I thought Christophe (Dugarry) was so good for me. He's outstanding in that he gets on the ball and sprays it out wide to the wingers.

"I think Steve Bruce has made a good signing."

Lazaridis also believes that ending a three match losing streak, including a 4-0 hammering by Arsenal, with the 1-1 draw at Blackburn has been a real boost.

"If we can keep this sort of distance between ourselves and the bottom three or four clubs by the end of February, the run in is a do-able one for us. I can see us picking up things from those games."

Player Professionalism Remains High in Uncertain Times

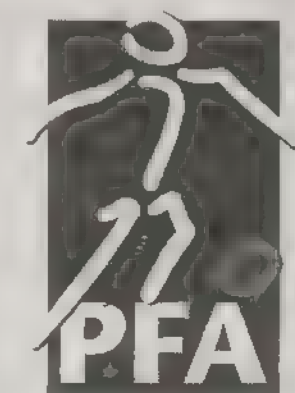
The PFA's annual study of National Soccer League player contracts reveals that full-time professionalism remains high but has dropped by about 10% in 2002/2003, as NSL Clubs reassess their spending priorities in difficult times.

An analysis of the Senior Lists filed by each NSL Club with Soccer Australia in accordance with the National Soccer League Collective Agreement 1999 - 2003 has shown that of the 292 contracted players, 213 (72.9%) are employed on a full-time basis. 7 Clubs (Brisbane Strikers, Football Kingz, Newcastle United, Northern Spirit, Olympic Sharks, Parramatta Power and Perth Glory) lead the way, each employing 2 or fewer players on a part-time basis.

Melbourne Knights remains the NSL's only truly semi-professional club, with 21 of its 23 players being part-time. The remaining clubs all employ a balance of part and full-time professional footballers.

Interestingly, as Table 1 below shows, 2 NSL Clubs (South Melbourne and Sydney United) have dramatically reduced their reliance of full-time professionalism since last season.

Table 1
NSL Full/Part Time Players



2002/2003 (2001/2002)

CLUB	F/Time	P/Time	Total
Adelaide City Force	13 (11)	11 (13)	24 (24)
Brisbane Strikers	18 (14)	2 (4)	20 (18)
Football Kingz	17 (21)	1 (0)	18 (21)
Marconi Stallions	16 (10)	8 (8)	24 (18)
Melbourne Knights	2 (0)	21 (23)	23 (23)
Newcastle United	24 (27)	0 (0)	24 (27)
Northern Spirit	24 (24)	0 (2)	24 (26)
Olympic Sharks	21 (22)	1 (0)	22 (22)

Parramatta Power
23 (19) 1 (0) 24 (19)

Perth Glory
24 (25) 1 (0) 25 (25)

South Melbourne
9 (22) 11 (1) 20 (23)

Sydney United
15 (21) 11 (2) 26 (23)

Wollongong Wolves
7 (11) 11 (10) 18 (21)

TOTAL

213 (229)

79 (61)

292 (290)

% OF PLAYERS

72.95% (78.97%)

27.05% (21.03%)

The movement in full-time professionalism since the Collective Agreement formally introduced the designation of full and part-time players into the NSL Standard Player Contract in 1999/2000 is also interesting. This is illustrated by Table 2.

	%			
	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
Full-Time				
66	60	79	73	
Part-Time				
34	40	21	27	
Total				
100	100	100	100	

AUSTRALIA CUP 2003

— By Graham Cooke —

MATILDAS 2 MEXICO 0

Captain Cheryl Salisbury summed up Australia's 2-0 win over Mexico in their second Australia Cup game on Wednesday when she said: "It's nice to still come away with the points when you haven't played that well."

"We finished with a clean sheet, which for a defender is very gratifying."

Salisbury, who is battling her way back to fitness after suffering two fractures in her right foot, said she was struggling towards the end of the game but managed to hang on for the 90 minutes.

She played a major role in her side's success, and it was largely due to her influence that Mexico were shut out of the game for long periods.

The first goal came after nine minutes. Kelly Golebiowski sent a well weighted through pass to April Mann who timed her run to perfection to get in behind the defence and score from close range.

The Matildas added to the lead in first half stoppage time, a cross from Heather Garriok had defender Elizabeth Gomez in all sorts of trouble and her attempted clearance, under pressure from Mann, saw her deflect the ball into her own net.

Mexican defender Susana Mora said two defensive mistakes cost her side a share of the points. "It was inexperience and we have to learn from tournaments like this so we don't make those kind of mistakes again," she said.

The Matildas failed to carry on with the game in the second half, and Mexico battled its way back into the contest. Maribel Dominguez turned her defender and hooked a shot over the bar, then Fatima Leyva gave goalkeeper Claire Nichols her most anxious moment of the game when a lob from well out on the right threatened to leave the goalkeeper stranded.

In the end Nichols did enough to cover the ball, which ended up skimming the top of the bar.

Matildas coach Adrian Santrac said performances were more important than results. "I saw some good characteristics in the way we played tonight, but we are not going to sit on that," he said. "Mexico are a very good side and I hope they qualify for the World Cup."

Mexican team boss Leonardo Cuellar offered an immediate invitation for the Matildas to play in his country. Santrac said if it were possible "I would love to continue the relationship begun so successfully here."

Australia: Claire Nichols, Sacha Wainwright (Pamela Grant 46), Thea Slatyer, Cheryl Salisbury, Rhian Davies, Kelly Golebiowski (Kristyn Swaffer 89), Olivia Hohnke (Tal Karp 63), April Mann (Hayley Crawford 71), Joanne Peters, Heather Garriok, Bryony Duus (Danielle Small 65).
Mexico: Jennifer Molina, Elizabeth Gomez, Susana Mora,



April Mann scored the Matildas first goal.

Monica Gonzalez, Monica Vergara, Dioselina Valderrama, Fatima Leyva, Maribel Dominguez, Patricia Perez, Laura Maravillas (Janeth Siordia 48), Yanet Antunez (Teresa Worbis 55).
Referee: Tammy Ogston.

SWEDEN 3 SOUTH KOREA 0

Sweden came close to a record score against the hapless South Koreans on Wednesday when they won 8-0, a margin only exceeded by a 9-0 thrashing of the Republic of Ireland a decade ago.

While they were clearly the better side, they were assisted by Korean coach Jong Goan An, who made the incredible decision to make five substitutions at half time with the team losing 3-0. The 'new look' combination was no match for a settled Sweden already in top gear, and succumbed to a five-goal humiliation in the second 45 minutes.

For Swedish coach Marika Lyfors, the result was a welcome return to form following the shock 1-1 draw with Mexico the previous Sunday.

The Koreans, shaken from the controversial ending to the game with Australia, which saw goalkeeper coach Hyun Kon Cho suspended from the tournament after an altercation with an official, never seemed to be doing anything more than going through the motions, and morale in the camp is obviously at rock bottom.

They fell behind to a goal from Hanna Ljungberg after just three minutes. With 29 minutes gone Malin Andersson sent her corner kick straight into the net over the head of goalkeeper Ho Jung Jung.

Kristin Bengtsson curled a free kick out of Jung's reach to make it three by half time, and in the second half goals rained in from Therese Lundin (2), Ljungberg, Salina Olsson and Linda

Fagerstrom.
The humiliation did not stop there as Korea's Hae Jung Park was sent off with seven minutes to go for a tackle from behind on Victoria Svensson. In all, the fifth Australia Cup is a tournament her team will want to forget.

Sweden: Caroline Jonsson, Karolina Westberg, Hanna Marklund (Anna-Maria Eriksson 61), Kristin Bengtsson (Frida Nordin 64), Malin Moström, Sara Larsson, Malin Andersson (Linda Fagerstrom 54), Hanna Ljungberg, (Salina Olsson 73) Therese Sjogran, Therese Lundin (Victoria Svensson 78), Jenny Engwall (Jane Tomqvist 73).

South Korea: Ho Jung Jung (Song Sil Yoo 69), Hae Jung Park (sent off 83), Suk Hee Jin, Sung Mi Cha, Je Hee Song, Song I Han (In Sun Hwang 13 - Sang Hee Kim 46), Jung Suk Jung (Chan Ho Lee 46), Sun Ae Han (Kyung Sook Park 46), Yoo Mi Kim (Ji Eun Lee 46), Myung Hwa Lee (Jin Sook Han 46), Young Sil Yoo.

Referee: Krystyna Szokolai.

SOUTH KOREA 0 MEXICO 2

South Korean coach Jong Goan An was scathing of the standard of Australian refereeing after his team was beaten 2-0 by Mexico in the early game on Saturday night.

"The women's refereeing standard is very low," he said. "I would like to return for another Australia Cup tournament, but only if the referees come from third countries."

"The referees are not sensitive to the players, they inflame situations. In Korea the referees always smile when they deliver their verdicts; here they make faces."

South Korea completed a miserable tournament, point-less, with two players sent off. They were involved in controversy when their match against Australia was abandoned after an official manhandled

an assistant referee, and have been reported to FIFA.

The Mexicans struck early when goalkeeper Ho Jung Jung failed to get hold of a corner from Fatima Leyva and Elizabeth Gomez cracked the loose ball home.

Then Maribel Dominguez out-paced the defence to strike the ball over the head of Jung as the goalkeeper struggled to return to her line.

Korea made an effort to get back into the game after the interval and had more of the play for substantial periods of the second half. Poor finishing let them down, no more so when Ji Eun Lee got into the goal area only to blaze the ball high over the bar when it would have been easier to put it into the net.

But it all unraveled again for the visitors when Lee received marching orders in stoppage time for a foul on Patricia Perez.

An said neither Lee nor Hae Jung Park, sent off against Sweden, had ever been dismissed before. "I hold the referees responsible for much of what has happened," he said.

Mexican coach Leonardo Cuellar said he was delighted to finish the competition with a win. "There was some concerns at home over the expense of coming to this tournament, but I feel we have shown it was very worthwhile," he said.

Mexico: Pamela Tajonar, Elizabeth Gomez, Susana Mora, Monica Gonzalez, Maria Castillo, Monica Vergara (Janeth Siordia 61), Dioselina Valderrama, Fatima Leyva, Maribel Dominguez, Patricia Perez, Laura Maravillas (Yanet Antunez 78).

South Korea: Ho Jung Jung, Kyung Sook Park (Shin Jeong Lee 55), Suk Hee Jin (Eun Sook Kim 69), Sung Mi Cha (Song I Han 75), In Sung Hwang, Ju Hee Song (Chan Ho Lee 59), Ji Eun Lee (sent off 90+), Jung Suk Jung (Sun Ae Han 54), Jin Sook Han (Mylung Hwa Lee 46), Yoo Mi Kim (Sang Hee Kim 69), Young Sil Yoo.

Referee: Krystyna Szokolai.

Crowd: 820.

FINAL AUSTRALIA 1 SWEDEN 3

The Australian Matildas received a lesson in just how tough it is at the top in women's soccer when they were beaten 3-1 by Sweden in the final game of the 2003 Australia Cup on Saturday night.

The Swedes are considered to be fifth in unofficial world rankings, but they were a long way ahead of Australia on Saturday's form with the 3-1 score line somewhat flattering to the home side.

A measure of the visitors' dominance came in the corner-count, 13-0 to the Europeans, and the fact that apart from the goal, Swedish goalkeeper Sofia Lundgren was called into serious action on one occasion.

However, Australian coach Adrian Santrac put the result in perspective when he said that while it would have been nice to win the Australia Cup, by far the most valuable outcome was the experience gained in playing three competitive matches in six days.

"Our whole focus is now directed towards the Oceania World Cup qualifiers in April and hopefully the cup itself after that," he said. "From that point of view I am really pleased with the outcome."

"Despite losing, I think we played better today than in our wins against South Korea and Mexico and that shows we are making progress."

The coach said he would also like to return to the McKellar ground in Canberra to play the qualifiers. "They will be played in Australia, and I can't think of a better place," he said.

"The pitch is excellent, we have all the facilities we need and the Canberra weather in April will favour us. If we took the matches north and played in hot and humid conditions, we would be doing our opponents a favour."

Sweden gave an early warning of what was to come when Matildas goalkeeper Claire Nichols had to save at the feet of Hanna Ljungberg, then a speculative lob from Ljungberg beat Nichols but landed on the roof of her net.

Lundgren finally got into the action, saving a free kick from Heather Garriok, but it was totally against the run of play when Australia took the lead in the 38th minute.

Tal Karp found Kelly Golebiowski who struck a shot from 22 metres that took Lundgren by surprise as it squeezed in on her far post.

It was Golebiowski's third goal of the tournament in her 50th appearance for Australia, but there was little time for celebration. Two minutes later Salina Olsson, under pressure from two defenders, somehow found the gap between them and calmly placed her shot out of Nichols' reach into the far corner of the net.

The Matildas suffered a further blow when experienced captain Cheryl Salisbury could not come out after half time due to a thigh strain, and fell behind four minutes later.

This time Jan Tomqvist pumped a long ball into the penalty area that caught Nichols off her line and floundering as it went over her head as the Swedes hit the front.

The contest was as good as over in the 73rd minute with Kristin Bengtsson's low corner to the near post that Nichols, in a desperate scramble, could only punch into her own net.

Santrac said the turning point of the game had been Australia's goal. "The players are told not to lose concentration in these situations, to step up and deliver another blow," he said.

"Instead we sat back and allowed Sweden to take over."



Kelly Golebiowski: Led the scorer's charts with 3 goals.

Australia: Claire Nichols (Cassandra Kell 76), Thea Slatyer, Cheryl Salisbury (Pamela Grant 46), Rhian Davies, Kelly Golebiowski, Olivia Hohnke (Hayley Crawford 84), April Mann (Danielle Small 67), Joanne Peters, Heather Garriok, Kristyn Swaffer, Tal Karp (Bryony Duus 65).

Sweden: Sofia Lundgren, Karolina Westberg, Jane Tomqvist, Kristin Bengtsson, Malin Andersson (Linda Fagerstrom 59), Hanna Ljungberg (Victoria Svensson 71), Anna-Maria Eriksson, Therese Sjogran (Frida Nordin 90+), Anna Sjostrom, Sara Call, Salina Olsson (Ulrika Bjorn 80).

Referee: Tammy Ogston.
Crowd: 1500

Tournament Top Goalscorers :

Kelly Golebiowski (AUS)	3
Hanna Ljungberg (SWE)	2
Therese Lundin (SWE)	2
April Mann (AUS)	2
Kristin Bengtsson (SWE)	2
Salina Olsson (SWE)	2

5TH AUSTRALIA CUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Sweden	3	2	1	-	12	2	10	7
Australia	3	2	-	1	5	3	2	6
Mexico	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
South Korea	3	-	-	3	0	12	-12	0

TOUGH DRAW FOR YOUNG ROOS

The Australian Under 20 National team (Qantas Young Socceroos) have been dealt a tough draw for the 2003 FIFA World Youth Championship.

The draw that was held in the host nation for the tournament - the United Arab Emirates - saw the Qantas Young Socceroos allocated to Group C alongside three-time champions Brazil, European representatives Czech Republic and CONCACAF group winners Canada.

It is the second consecutive time that the Qantas Young Socceroos have been drawn alongside both Brazil and the Czech Republic. In the 2001 tournament the Czech

Republic defeated Australia 3-0 in the group stage, with Brazil knocking Australia out of the tournament

with a 4-0 result in the second round. "It's not an easy draw, but at the same time it is a World Cup so you wouldn't expect any easy games," said National Youth Coach Ange Postecoglou.

"The important thing for us is that whilst the actual group is tough, the sequence of games isn't too bad. We have the Czech Republic first, then Canada and

then Brazil, so if we can get a result against the Czech Republic in the first game it will set us up nicely...so that first game looks like being particularly crucial for us."

The preliminary group draw for the Qantas Young Socceroos is:

Australia Vs Czech Republic
26 March - 8.30pm

Australia Vs Canada
29 March - 5.45pm

Australia Vs Brazil
1 April - 5.45pm
(* all times are Dubai time)

The 24-team tournament will be held from March 25 - April 16 with

Group C to be played at the Rashid Stadium in the Northern city of Dubai.

Australia has a long and successful history at the FIFA World Youth Championships with many current Socceroos having participated in previous tournaments.

Australia were semi-finalists in 1991 and 1993 and were quarter-finalists in 1981, 1995, 1997 and 2001.

The tournament runs in the United Arab Emirates from March 25-April 16.



The U20 squad ready to do battle in next month's World Cup in Dubai.

Bosnich battle begins

MARK Bosnich's battle to clear his name over drug allegations began last week at a meeting with English Premier League officials.

The former Socceroo goalkeeper was sacked by London club Chelsea this month after testing positive for cocaine late last year.

Bosnich will argue that the club was wrong to end his \$112,400-a-year contract before the Football Association had heard his case.

He was suspended from his contract after the test and has not been paid for almost three months.

The FA will hear his case next month.



Mark Bosnich: Former Socceroo keeper is hoping to clear his name after testing positive for cocaine last year.

Blue Devils help fire cause

By Graham Cooke

The fact that Belconnen Blue Devils and Bankstown City Lions didn't play in Canberra two weeks ago has boosted the city's bushfire appeal fund by \$500.

By the time it was decided to abandon the NSW Premier League fixture because of smoke haze at half time in the under-19 game, \$350 had already been collected at the gate. In addition, an appeal for the bushfire victims around the ground had raised \$100.

Blue Devils president Alan Jackson said there was a debate as to whether the gate money could be refunded. "The trouble was we had no way of telling who had paid the full price and who had been a concession, so we thought it would be a good idea to donate the lot to the bushfire fund," he said.

"When no-one objected, the

club kicked in another \$50 to make it \$500. It was a good atmosphere and a lot of patrons stayed behind just to watch our boys go through a training session."

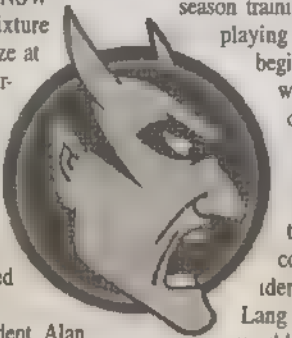
*While the Blue Devils struggle with a bushfire-related fixture pile-up, ACT clubs are beginning to stir from the summer recess.

Tuggeranong United begin pre-season training at Wanniasa playing fields tonight beginning at 6.30pm with the call going out for all interested players to attend.

With the restructuring of the local competition, president Christopher Lang said United would continue to support the concept of firsts, reserves and youth.

"In addition we will have at least one other youth team as well as entries in divisions four, five and masters," he said.

Last year's head coach, Jimmy Bland, has re-signed for the 2003 season.



WOLLONGONG NEWS

Wolfs Thoughts — Looking at the team's standing in the soccer season did not produce the success of reaching the top spots.

It's been pretty much up and down season for the Wolves who this year have been going through a transitional change with adjusting to new young players.

Having blooded seven youngsters this season, Ron Corry certainly has future stars in the squad.

Captain Stuart Young is really enthralled by the progress made by the younger players and good form of the regulars. Everybody is still very optimistic of competing well against forthcoming matches with competition leaders Port Glory and second placed Olympic Sharks both at WIN Stadium.

ISA Season Launch — The Illawarra Soccer Association will hold their annual season launch on Wednesday 12th March 7 PM at the Fraternity Club, no cover charge. Refreshments are provided. The 28 member clubs plus special invited guests will celebrate 100 years of soccer in Illawarra. The Clubs will display their playing colours and change-strips.

VIP Guests Wolves Director Wally Boscoscuro is giving a pre-

sentation on the newly planned Wollongong Sports Centre to be built at the present Lysaght Recreation venue.

Also a display of sports equipment, trophies, clothing from WB Sports Supplies Woonona is on show.

ICU PREMIER LEAGUE

The new ICU Premier League and Conference League seasons will begin on Saturday 22nd March, running right through to Sunday 28th September with the Grand Final in Premier League, the Grand Final in Conference League one week prior.

Planning Ahead — Barney King, Head Coach of Shellharbour City Soccer Club and President Andrew Campbell are both justifiably proud of having attracted a number of talented former junior players. The Coach is confident of a bright future for City pointing to a successful Youth Development program.

Prominent soccer talents have joined City like Jesse Cooney, Matt Sacco, Shaun Falcon, Peter Lawler. Even only touching 17 years the coach feels all might play first grade this year, pressing for a starting spot

in the first eleven. Places in first grade will be very competitive this season with the head coach assembling a preliminary squad of 20 players to be tested.

Reserve Grade coach Col Blakeney is working in conjunction with Youth Grade Coach Andrew "Harry" Hudson to build two squads, having to evaluate various new faces. Progress is made with eager players competing for a place in the teams. This year no overage players in youth grade are allowed, making room for more youngsters to join, gaining experience, developing their skills to emerge as potential first graders.

Striker Adam Lewis former Tarrawanna first grader, moved to the area and was signed by Shellharbour City. Coach Barney King is most impressed with the newcomer, gladly welcoming him to his squad. He will support the Buchanan Brothers up front.

President Andy Campbell offers 16 players U/20's a club Scholarship worth \$200 providing the boys show proper attitude, team spirit and represent City Soccer Club with distinction. The opportunity is available to players coming out of the Junior ranks.



PREMIERSHIP BIZZARIO

Nige and Fergy here from BananaTV's Premiership Bizzario. Every week we're going to give you our views and opinions on what's going on, and off, in the English Premiership.

It's on, it's off...well now it's on again. Robbing Fowler is again thinking about a move to Manchester's poor cousins. This time Man City chairman David Bernstein has agreed the pay per play with Leeds Utd as they look to shed some of that hefty wage bill off the books. On this arrangement Leeds get paid 6 pence every time Robbie turns up for training, 8 pence every time he finds a space in the Maine Road car park and 9 pence every time he puts his boots on. The cost soon mounts up. Although Fowler is said to be thinking about it carefully, 2 things will be at the forefront of his thoughts.

1. He is currently getting paid 45 grand per week to sit on his arse.
2. His dodgy hip is giving him so much grief that he'd much rather sit on his arse if it's all the same to you.

What Robbie will eventually decide, and when the debacle will end, is anybody's guess.

Arry Redknapp is at his old tricks again. This time, stealing Tim Sherwood Forest, from under the noses of WBA. This should take the total age of the first eleven to about 500, almost equalling The Rolling Stones. That's a lot of experience! How the West Ham board must be rueing the tiff that led to Arry's exit.

The nightmare for Sergei Rippoff is all over. An 18 month deal has been agreed with Fenerbache (yes, another loan deal). We feel sorry for Sergei He was a world-class player when he arrived at Spurs. Spurs then proceeded to turn him to a Sunday pub side player. Good work guys, add in the massive \$33 million loss that will be made, and that's a job well done!

A terrorist warning to finish. If you are in Berwick (arse end of

Scotland), be on the lookout for "a fat bearded git" armed to the teeth...with celery. During the huge clash between Berwick and Stranraer a couple of strange individuals followed the teams onto the pitch and made their way towards the Stranraer fans and then proceeded to pelt them with celery. A message was left on the club website from 'Vegiman' claiming the incident was no more than a satirical protest. Maybe someone from Stranraer wrecked his allotment.

See you next week.
Premiership Bizzario

To catch Nige and Fergy on Premiership Bizzario, their internet TV show, go to www.bananatv.com. And click on Premiership Soccer. New episodes added each week. Don't miss it.



Premiership Bizzario

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2002/03

NORTHERN DIVISION RESULTS - ROUND 20

Olym Sharks Youth 6 ACTAS 0
(Parsons 40', Ozbey 46', Hilton 62', Stuart 83' 92', Camilleri 89')

Marconi Mustangs v Northern Spirit
Match deferred

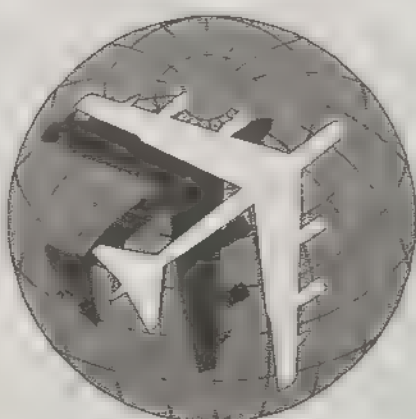
BYE - Newcastle United Youth
BYE - Parramatta Power Youth

LEAGUE LADDER - ROUND 20

TEAM	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
ACTAS	15	10	3	4	2	29	14	33
Canberra Deakin	18	8	5	3	5	46	29	29
Wolves Youth	17	7	6	2	4	40	27	27
Parra Power Youth	15	8	3	4	4	38	25	27
Newc Utd Youth	17	7	6	3	4	31	24	27
Northern Spirit Yth	15	7	4	3	4	16	10	25
Olym Sharks Youth	17	5	7	2	5	26	20	22
Sydney Utd Youth	14	5	3	3	6	29	21	18
ACTAS	15	5	3	3	7	24	34	18
Stallions Youth	15	4	4	4	7	17	35	16
QAS	17	4	3	3	10	19	40	15
Marconi Mustangs	15	0	3	2	12	6	42	3



Carl Pideski and Michael Spaleta have starred for the Canberra Deakin this season.



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MARCONI



STRIKERS



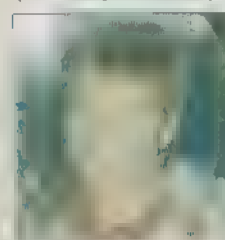
A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Off To Viareggio Italy



Nathan Foti (Captain)
(Midfielder - No 7)



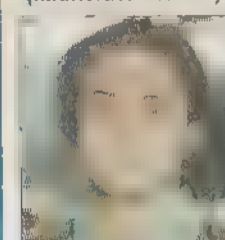
Murray Nelson
(Goalkeeper - No 22)



Luke Fenna
(Goalkeeper - No 1)



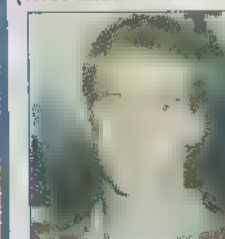
David Blackburn
(Midfielder - No 19)



Moussa Chahine
(Defender - No 15)



Michael Dowling
(Wide Midfielder - No 6)



Chris Andrews
(Defender - No 3)



Sami Yilmaz
(Defender - No 16)

A.P.I.A.-LEICHHARDT TIGERS' Youth Squad late Saturday afternoon boards its Singapore flight to Rome to participate in the 55th Viareggio Youth Tournament based at the North-West Coastal township of Viareggio.

This Tournament kicks off on February 17th with a spectacular Opening Ceremony in the main Stadium at Viareggio.

Traditionally Europe's most prestigious Youth Tournament, will have 40 participating squads. This year's glamour Tournament will embrace squads from as far as Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Germany, Greece, Holland, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland, Yugoslavia and of course Italy.

The 40 team Tournament has been dissected into Ten Groups each comprising four club sides.

A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers (Australia) has been slotted into Group 2, bracketed against the notly competitive Italian outfits from Cosenza, Napoli and Reggina.

The final draw released last week-end by the A.P.I.A. 'Centro Giovani' revealed A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt's first Tournament opponent will be against Cosenza on Tuesday 18th February, followed by Reggina on Wednesday 19th February.

Game 2 for Apia has been scheduled for Thursday 20th February, against Reggina to be played at Empoli's Training Head Quarters 80 kilometres out of Viareggio.

Apia's last game of Phase 1 is against the great Maradona's old club, Napoli set down for Saturday 22nd February and played in the spectacular scenic City of Sienna, almost 200 kilometres out of Viareggio.

A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers have been dealt a Herculean task having to do combat

against three Italian challengers.

So heavily stacked is this international Youth Competition by the Italians, the last 54 consecutive years of this tough Tournament, has seen only eight non-Italian teams being able to battle their way through and win the Cup Final.

The Final will be played in Viareggio on March 3rd.

To battle-harden Apia's Youth squad for this mountainous task, Apia's Technical Director John



Mark Brady
(Team Coach)

Romeo and Club President Tony Raciti have blue-printed five pre-Tournament friendlies. Three of these already have been arranged. The first against Brazilian outfit Santos (the erstwhile Pele's old club), played against the crack club's Pistoiese.

This tremendous Tournament is rapidly realising a dream, the Australian team's visionary and President, Tony Raciti, quickly

nailed down the expert services of local Italian assistant coach Sgr Roberto Taponetto. It will be Sgr Taponetto's special assignment to technically advise the coaching staff of Romeo and Mark Brady forming up the styles, strengths and systems

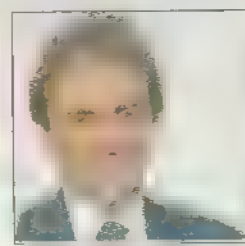
utilised by all three of Apia's Group 2 Italian opponents.

Whilst in Italy the Apia Youth squad will take in breath-taking historical sights of Rome, including the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, the ancient gladiatorial arena of the Colosseum, tour the Holy Vatican, and even manage to pop into the Olympic Stadium to watch the Serie A clash Lazio vs Torino (Sunday 9th February).

As an added tour-bonus, the Apia Youth team at the end of the Tournament will be official

Special Feature By John Economos

guests at Europe's most famous Viareggio Carnevale. Staged annually for the past 100 years, this colossal colourful Carnevale attracts a gigantic parade of mobile monster motorised floats that meander Viareggio's waterfront.

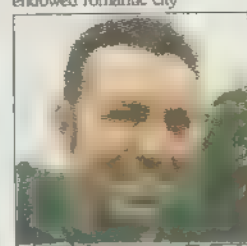


Tony Raciti
(A.P.I.A. President)

Incredible motorised floats that tower some 35 metres skyward, astonishingly defying the Laws of Gravity.

claustrophobic crowds that annually gravitate from across Europe to witness this amazing, and absolutely unbelievable extravaganza.

As well, the Apia squad will visit the magnificent ancient city of Florence. Heavily saturated with classic arts, crafts, architecture, culture plus the staggering, ancient yet immaculate Cathedral of Santa Maria, fabulous Florence unquestionably has to be the World's most richly endowed romantic city.



John Romeo
(A.P.I.A. Technical Director)

The Apia Youth Squad will be accompanied by a local Italian team.



The immaculate Santa Maria Cathedral — del Duomo, based in the centre of the fabulous City of Florence.



Robert Younis
(Striker - No 20)



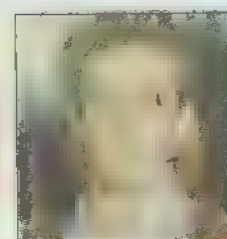
Leigh Magri
(Midfielder - No 12)



AGIC Gregor (Central Marker)	No. 2
ANDREWS Chris (Defender)	No. 3
BLACKBURN David (Midfielder)	No. 19
CHAHINE Moussa (Defender)	No. 15
DOWLING Michael (Wide Midfielder)	No. 6
FEMIA Luke (Goalkeeper)	No. 1
FOTI Nathan (Midfielder Capt.)	No. 7
KARPEH Boima (Central Midfielder) (no photo)	W.A.
LEKOVSKI Mathew (Midfielder)	No. 14
MAGRI Leigh (Midfielder)	No. 12
MOULDS Nathan (Sweeper)	No. 4
MUSUMECI Carlo (Left Midfielder)	No. 11
MUSUMECI Marino (Right Midfielder)	No. 18
NAGLIERI Antonio (Striker) (no photo)	
NELSON Murray (Goalkeeper)	No. 22
PANUCCIO Tony (Midfielder)	No. 17
RACITI Matthew (Left Midfielder)	No. 8
RESTUCCIA Rockie (Striker)	No. 10
RHODES Jordan (Striker)	No. 23
ROSSI Dominic (Striker)	No. 9
WALKER Peter (Midfielder)	No. 13
YILMAZ Sami (Defender)	No. 16
YOUNIS Robert (Striker)	No. 20

OFFICIALS.

ROMEO John (Technical Director).
BRADY Mark (Team Coach).
RACITI Tony (A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt's President).



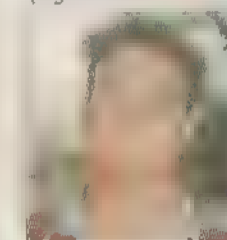
Nathan Moulds
(Sweeper - No 4)



Carlo Musumeci
(Left Midfielder - No 11)



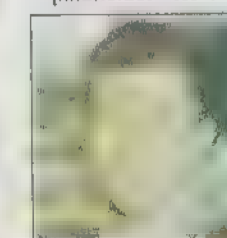
Marino Musumeci
(Right Midfielder - No 18)



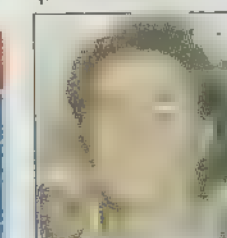
Gregor Agic
(Central Marker - No 2)



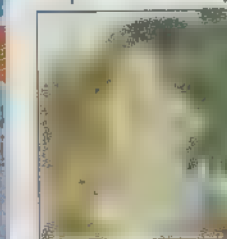
Tony Panuccio
(Midfielder - No 17)



Matthew Raciti
(Left Midfielder - No 8)



Rockie Restuccia
(Striker - No 10)



Peter Walker
(Midfielder - No 13)

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5
INTER MILAN BAYERN MUNICH FIorentina SANTOS	A.P.I.A.-LEICHHARDT COSENZA NAPOLI REGGINA	TORINO SLAVIA PRAHA BENEVENTO DESP. CAPIXABA	BRESCIA VOJVODINA SLOSVAVIA ASCOLI TRINEU	INTER MILAN BAYERN MUNICH TERNANA VITORIA
GROUP 6	GROUP 7	GROUP 8	GROUP 9	GROUP 10
MILAN LAZIO CATANIA COSTA RICA UNITED	TORINO SLAVIA PRAHA SALERNITANA NEW YORK	VICENZA BENEVENTO DESP. CAPIXABA	PARMA GRASSHOPPER BRINDISI C.N. MARCILIO	PARMA PERUGIA PALERMO FROSINONE

From The Dressing Sheds

By Mark Stavroulakis

Finally the wait is over, the Socceroo squad was selected last Thursday afternoon and to some people's surprise heralded three new members to the squad that lost to Uruguay two years ago.

Vince Grella, Scott Chipperfield and Lucas Neill were all new members of the now QANTAS Socceroo squad who take on England in less than a few weeks.

On paper the side looks quite tough with many of the players playing regularly for their respective European clubs.

England have ended all speculation that they will be fielding a 'B' side against the Australians after the English FA stated "England will field a full strength team adding that any suggestion to the contrary are pure speculation".

Don't forget to tune into you TV on the 13th of February as SBS will be beaming the game LIVE from 6.00am (AEST).

What a week it was for Power's pint sized striker Johnny Buonavoglia.

The little magician bagged four goals in Parramatta's seven-nil annihilation of the hapless Marconi Stallions two weeks ago.

Johnny B has now scored nine goals this season and from the looks of things will score many more this year.

It's been a testing year for the Power right from the word go this NSL year.

After recruiting well over 12 new players to the squad plus having Nick Theodorakopoulos at the helm, it took some time for the squad to adjust as a team.

All seemed lost at the beginning of the year when Parramatta struggled to gain maximum points with many observers stating that the side were merely pretenders.

Things went even worse for the club when the Power were told that at the end of

the next NSL season, the League's club will no longer fund the soccer side.

However a few weeks back, the side took a change for the better.

Brilliant results on the pitch have seen the squad move from bottom of the ladder to fifth spot, an amazing achievement.

The guns are certainly blazing at the club at the moment and with the Glory set to possibly lose three points for fielding an unregistered player during the round one clash with the Power, the club could well back another three points and go further up the ladder.

After being told that the leagues club would not back the side after next year, already keen interests from overseas clubs have arisen prompting that the Power could well stay for a few more years.

Can Parramatta make the top six for the first time in its four-year history? Only time will tell.

It was a huge relief to hear that during an NSL meeting held last week in Sydney, all participating NSL bosses had agreed to unite for a brand new league next year.

After months of discussion about whether the league was ready to tackle reform comes the green light that all NSL clubs will support the idea of starting up a new league.

At the moment, word is that next season could be shortened and could start as late as November, December as the league prepares for its re-launch.

Also, television coverage could be seen next year in a bid to help out NSL clubs financially, receiving sponsorship dollars.

It was quite sad to hear that Melbourne Knights defender Ivan Jolic decided to hang up the boots just before his 100th match for the club.

The Knights have come under the spotlight recently after Andrew Marth was

given the sack by the club after turning in some poor results.

Returning to the club is ex-Knights coach Mirko Bazic who has stated that he will take the squad for the rest of the season however ex-player Kresimir Marusic has been penciled in as a possible replacement for Bazic next year.

Back to Jolic's saga, the 28-year-old also featured heavily in the media after the defender was sent off in the round 17 clash against the Stallions when Ivan was alleged to have pushed a referee.

After spending seven seasons in the NSL, Jolic last week stated that it was time to move on with his life and that his career as an engineer would be his main focus.

Ivan however has not stated that he has retired from the game all together as VPL clubs St Albans and the Whittlesea Stallions have



Ivan Jolic decided to call it quits with the Knights last week, a game before his 100th NSL appearance.

already approached the former Knights star.

While Alex Tobin embarked on playing his 500th NSL match against the Glory last week, Ivan Jolic put end to his NSL career, a game before his hundredth.

Australian Youth coach Ange Postecoglou last week announced his young U17 Joey's squad for this month's FIFA U17 World Championship qualifying tournament held at the Sunshine Coast.

The 20-man squad held a prominent theme that the majority of the players were from Institutes across Australia.

The Queensland Academy of Sport had four players, both the Victorian Institute of Sport and the AIS had three, the South Australian Institute of Sport had two while NSWIS had one.

On a club level, Parramatta Power and the Olympic Sharks had two players selected while the

Wolves, Newcastle and the Spirit had one.

This statistic just goes to show how important our Institutes are to this country and that they develop future Socceroo stars.

At this moment Australia ranks amongst one of the leaders in developing youngsters and that's all thanks to the various programs being issued out by these academies and institutes Australia-wide.

Look for Wolves defender Jacob Timpano to possibly skipper the squad, while other notable mentions from the young side is Olympic Sharks rising young striker Matthew Hilton, NSWIS midfielder Eric Paartalu and finally AIS striker Adam Casey.

"Radio 2" (1611AM) will this month showcase one of the greatest spectacles in Australian football live over the radio waves.

Thursday February 13th, starting at 6.45am will see Colin Turner take the microphone and call the England v Socceroos clash at Upton Park.

Turner, a legend over the radio waves as Australia's prime soccer presenter stated that this is a great chance to see the Socceroos get one over the English.

"The whole country has been looking forward to a game like this for years. As we know and understand how the Australian players who perform in Europe have always been given a hard time by their club mates about Australia's international record. Now the Socceroos have the opportunity and the talent to put it all on display."

It's good to hear the news that injured South Melbourne defender Robert Liparoti is currently recovering from his knee injury which he suffered against Sydney United in round 16.

South Melbourne's tallest defender had his knee operated on last week and from all reports is doing well exercising and strengthening his knee.

"The knee feels alright I haven't had any complications with it. I exercise everyday and with the advice and assistance from South Melbourne physio-therapist Mark Toomey, I should be back for the beginning of the next pre-season", Lippa stated.

It's pleasing to hear that the Queensland Government is all for supporting the round ball game in 2003 after they issued \$250,000 to Soccer QLD for its State Development Program.

The funding doesn't stop there, a further \$50,000 has also been allocated to Soccer



Radio 2 host Colin Turner will be calling the England v Socceroos clash this month.

QLD's "Soccer in the Outback Program".

This is excellent news to the people of Queensland who for many years have seen many talented players come from the Sunshine Coast ranks.

Simon Colosimo has returned back to Australia and has finally signed with current NSL leaders Perth Glory until the end of the season.

The Glory beat off offers from the Olympic Sharks and South Melbourne, who will no doubt benefit from this signing.

Having played in England for Manchester City and finally moving across to Belgian club Royal Antwerp, Colosimo believes that the professionalism Perth has is far greater than what he was used to in Belgium.

"It is more professional here at Glory. Fifty percent more professional than Antwerp. The set-up is better and the crowds are a lot bigger."

Glory coach Mich d'Avray stated to the 'West Australian' that Colosimo's signing will benefit the club in more ways than one.

"I have been chasing him for years. I spoke to him before he went overseas."

MEDIA TO TEST THE MIGHT OF CAMEROON

Prior to this week's deferred fixture between the Northern Spirit and Parramatta Power comes an exhibition match between a select Media side and a select Cameroon side.

The match will be played this coming Wednesday kicking off at 5.15pm where a number of personalities and ex-National League players will be on show at Spirit's North Sydney Oval.

ABSW have managed to snare the starting eleven

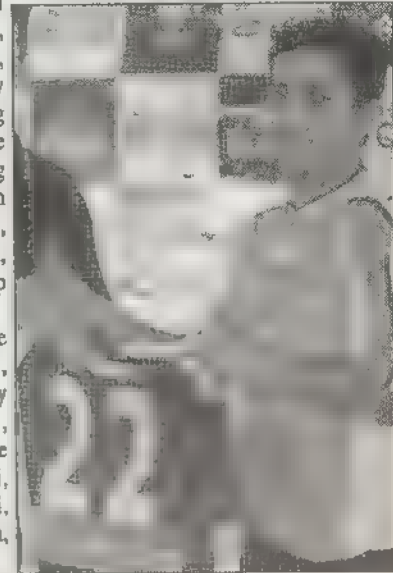
squad plus the substitutions for the Media side who were quite successful in their last outing against a select referee's side.

Flavio Novaro, Phil Moss, Francis Awaratife, Cherif Kusur, Michael Cockerill, Andrew Orsatti, Andrew Hoocher, Greg Walker, Robbie Slater, Craig Foster, Alain Barataud, Andrew Harper, Jean-Loup Rousseau.

Subs: Kyle Petterson, Manny Spanoudakis, Julien Serouge, Mickael Adai, John Mojonoski, Marco Scacia, Marco Kosnic.

The coach of the media side is ABSW's French

correspondent Alain Barataud while on the other end of the pitch, Spirit's tough defender Simon Bell will don the coaches position as head coach of the select Cameroon squad.



Glory's new signing Simon Colosimo shown accepting his jersey from Perth coach Mich d'Avray.

ROUND 22
FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2003
Adelaide City Force - Sydney United
Marconi Stallions - Newcastle United
SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2003
Parramatta Power - Football Kingz
SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2003
Melbourne Knights - South Melbourne
Wollongong Wolves - Perth Glory
Olympic Sharks - Northern Spirit
Bye - Brisbane Strikers

ROUND 21
FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2003
Football Kingz - Marconi Stallions
Newcastle United - Melbourne Knights
Northern Spirit - Wollongong Wolves
SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2003
Brisbane Strikers - Parramatta Power
SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2003
Sydney United - Olympic Sharks
South Melbourne - Adelaide City Force
Bye - Perth Glory

TOBIN RACKS UP 500
WHY TOBIN DIDN'T PLAY OVERSEAS
When I was young enough to think about playing overseas it was when European clubs were only allowed three foreigners and they tended to want just strikers or attacking midfielders and that's the honest truth of it.
Goalkeepers and defenders were not as much in demand.
By the time the offers came I was already settled in Australia with a team that was doing well and so I chose to stay and I certainly haven't regretted it.
Alex Tobin
WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT TOBIN
"Alex could have gone overseas and played but he chose not to. Five hundred league games is an amazing achievement and he's represented his country well too."
Things like this don't come around often so it needs to be promoted for the better of the competition and I hope he doesn't get lost in the wilderness like many other Australian soccer denizens of the past.
Former team-mate Damian Mori
"To play 500 games in the League is a great achievement but when that happens to a player like Alex Tobin, one of the gentlemen of the game, it's even sweeter. We salute and congratulate him, and wish him all the best."
Perth Glory coach Mich d'Avray



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NSW PREMIER LEAGUE SEASON 2002/2003

MATCH OF THE ROUND

 Rockdale City Suns	2
 Parramatta Eagles	4

By Greg Stock

A half-time tongue lashing by coach John Calleja and a revitalized performance from striker Daniel Kukucka were the main highlights in the Eagles 4-2 win over the Suns at John Crehan Park.

Down 2-1 at half-time and looking like they were on a highway to defeat, the Eagles resurrected themselves with a three goals to one second half to take the three points.

With all the pregame hype surrounding Suns striker Spase Najdoski, the Eagles swung quietly into action, taking a 14th minute lead via a Kukucka strike and looking the better of the two sides. But that's about as far as it went in the first half as Peter Apolevski was able to square the ledger when he took advantage of some sloppy defending to nip in behind the Eagles back three and go one on one with stand-in 'keeper Steve Angelov.

Despite losing Najdoski to a hamstring problem after twenty minutes, Rockdale

took the lead three minutes shy of the break when Robbie Todorovski found himself unmarked at the near post to put away a Denis Alilovic pass directly from a corner. It was a fair result for the home side who completely dominated the later part of the first half, and looking like they could really go on with the job.

But a half-time trade from the usually mild mannered John Calleja had the desired result, firing up his side who ran riot in the second half. Ably led by the enigmatic Daniel Kukucka, they scored three unanswered goals in less than twenty minutes to run away with the points.

Paul O'Grady started the scoring sequence fifteen minutes after the resumption when he met a corner at the back post, steering his header past a diving Peter Trajceviski, before his defensive partner Mark Reveley got his huge frame forward to complete a run from deep and bury a shot from just inside the penalty box.

Not normally noted for his efforts with the right boot the veteran defender started his run from just inside the Suns half, worked a deft one/two with Matty O'Shea and was able to get himself on the end of a return ball unleashing his shot amid some traffic in the Suns back third.

But the icing on the cake came eight minutes later when man of the match Kukucka, deflected in a shot with what is commonly referred to as his posterior, giving the stranded Trajceviski no chance.

It was a terrific performance from the visitors, who really look to be recapturing the form that won them the championship last season. Interestingly it was their back three that really caught the eye, Michael Kladis, Paul O'Grady and Mark Reveley the standouts, along with Kukucka who really built the victory.

A little sloppy before the break to allow two goals, they were uncompromising in the second, snuffing out any chance Rockdale had in their push forward, at the same time starting a lot of the Eagles attacking raids with overlapping runs from deep. With the competition tightening around them, the win has boosted their chances of pushing for a top two spot, and what is even more encouraging, is the return to form of Kukucka as a viable force in the Premier League.



David Brickell controls whilst Mark Reveley looks on.



Eagles keeper, Steve Angelov, punches clear as Robert Todorovski challenges.

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS 2
(P Apolevski 15', R Todorovski 42')

PARRAMATTA EAGLES 4
(D Kukucka 14', 79', P O'Grady 60', M Reveley 71')
at John Crehan Park, Crlngila

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS: Peter Trajceviski, Ghenadie Cosruc, Richard Plesa, Peter Apolevski, David Brickell, Tony Ju, Ben Deighan, Denis Alilovic (Malcolm Bideat), Steven Dimievski, Robbie Todorovski, Spase Najdoski (Trent Worrell).
Coaches: B I Pirovski and Mte Todorovski.

PARRAMATTA EAGLES: Steve Angelov, Michael Kladis, Paul O'Grady, Mark Reveley, Daniel Borg, Brett Townley-Jones, Malcolm Melak, Ben Delicata, Matthew O'Shea, Anthony Mittiga, Daniel Kukucka.
Coach: John Calleja.

Referee: Vic Gaudi

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AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY — FEBRUARY 4, 2003

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★ All information is courtesy of
SOCCER NSW

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SOCCER NSW

Penrith Panthers	0
Belconnen Blue Devils	1

By Greg Stock

Penrith missed a unique chance to move into top five calculations, beaten 1-0 by the misfiring Blue Devils at Andrews Road Field.

After promising so much in the previous few weeks, the Panthers returned to their old habits, falling behind to an early goal and failing to take advantage of a glut of second half possession, surrendering meekly in a game they really looked capable of winning.

It wasn't the most entertaining game ever seen, with both sides guilty of throwing away possession when in key goalscoring positions.

Daniel Macor scoring what would prove to be the winning goal after just ten minutes, the remaining eighty, a horrible disappointment to Panthers boss Tony Rasmussen who watched his side seemingly self-destruct.

Macor got his foot to a loose ball in the penalty box after a free kick from wide on the right sent the ball into Penrith goalkeeper Chad Taylor. Under pressure from some vigorous attackers he could only punch the ball into a mass of players, from where Macor was able to throw a boot to the ball and get it across the line.

After three weeks of inactivity owing to the bushfire emergency, Belconnen played out the rest of the game in a defensive frame of mind, content to hold the advantage and keep the home side at bay.

Well marshaled by Elliot Zwangobani and Lee Pietrukowski they held firm, goalkeeper Tony Giannasca pulling off a number of great saves throughout a tense second half. Substitute Ossie El Ali coming the closest when he sent a deft flick to Giannasca's left hand side, only to see the veteran 'keeper dive full length to pull off a finger tip save

It was misses like these that really cost the home side, controlling seventy percent of the game for zero percent of the outcome.

Without the services of Danny Hinton and Rod Hutchinson, both injured, they lacked direction but most importantly a targetman who could score a decisive goal and tip the

balance in their favour. The visitor's best served by goalkeeper Giannasca who kept a clean sheet with five great saves and defender Zwangobani while for Penrith, Luke O'Connell had another strong outing while Daniel Wells also caught the eye.



Elliot Zwangobani was strong in defence for Blue Devils.

PENRITH PANTHERS 0

BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS .1

(D Macor 10')
at Andrews Road Field, Penrith

PENRITH PANTHERS: Chad Taylor, Daniel Wells, Luke O'Connell, Ryan Noble (Paul Marosevic), Martin McCaffery, Chad Lewis (Tim O'Connell), Luke Boyd, Daniel McCann, Shane Hammond, Jason Solberras, Michael McCrory (Ossie El Ali)
Coach: Tony Rasmussen

BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS: Anthony Giannasca, Andrew Dowling, Lee Pietrukowski, Oscar Zamora, Michael Katz, (Jaime Mauro) Elliot Zwangobani, Daniel Macor (Clinton Lafford), David Arranz (Vaen), Gabeob Stewart Camara Marko Perovic
Coach: Lino Fiorese

Referee: Wayne Crabb
Assistant Referees: Gerard Parsons and Co. Smith
Fourth Official: Jim Barnes

Central Coast Coasties	1
Blacktown City Demons	4

By Paul Goodwin

Blacktown City Demons emerged from their game at Plum Park with a deserved 4-1 win over the Coasties, but it had been anybody's game until three minutes to go.

Almost 800 turned up to see the game which was played in ideal conditions.

The home side ultimately rued their missed first half chances, together with some poor defensive marking at the start of each half that allowed Blacktown the space to fire in two fine goals.

The game was only two minutes old when a quick throw on the right for the Demons led to David Reid throwing a dummy that allowed the ball to find its way to Jim Nikas out wide on the left.

Nikas advanced to the edge of the area and with most in the crowd expecting a cross and with no Coasties' man offering a decent challenge, the diminutive Demon elected to shoot and managed to find the bottom right

corner of the net with a fierce drive, giving Blacktown the early lead.

Five minutes later Central Coast should have drawn level.

James Monie played a ball down the left for Marc Falzon, who then played a quick one two with Josh Maguire before John Crawley managed to come off his line to force Falzon into hurrying his shot, which then went wide

In the 11th minute Tom Quilty did well to put Monie through again and once more Crawley raced out to narrow the angle, but this time the Coast man steered his low shot only inches past the right post, almost in slow motion.

The ball looked set to creep inside the post before either defender or keeper could get back, but its spin took it harmlessly wide at the finish.

The Coasties, however, did draw level in the 23rd.

Maguire did well out wide on the right, Quilty put the ball over to the near post and Falzon turned smartly and fired left-footed

past Crawley from a very tight angle for the equaliser.

At this stage Coast looked set to control the game, but Peter Haynes clipped one over the bar and another header of his was well taken by Crawley.

Meanwhile Simon Catanzaro ran onto a Nikas pass to force a point-blank save from Ben Xern in the 35th.

Blacktown continued to look sharp on the break, but the Coasties continued to enjoy a decent share of the ball, all to no avail.

Five minutes after the break a big clearance from Crawley, after a Coasties' corner had proven fruitless, found Catanzaro deep in Coast territory, but well clear of any opposition defenders.

Barely believing his good fortune Catanzaro only had to go around the keeper and then find the net to restore the Blacktown lead, after a baffling lack of concentration or application by the home defence.

The rest of the half saw little goalmouth activity and even the injection of three fresh players for the last twenty minutes failed to fire the Coasties as they might have hoped.

Then, with three minutes to go, Luke Roodenburg made a fast break for the Demons, taking Colin Luff with him, in the process laying the ball off for the former Bonnyngg man to steer a fine shot past

Xerni, with all his customary authority.

Three minutes into stoppage time Luff was able to find the net again, this time after Steve Riches had got away down the left and played a one-two with his striking teammate, a simple finish at the range of a few yards yielding Blacktown's fourth.

Central Coast suffered for their mistakes and a lack of concentration as they played some very good football and they could well have scored four themselves, with a better touch in front of goal.

Instead, it was the Demons who got that many, their backline being in total control throughout and their strikers alert for any half chances and then taking them.

Also the contribution of captain Crawley should not be underestimated.

His command at the back, his alertness and anticipation, coupled with a very vocal leadership laid a sound basis for the win as well.

Blacktown coach Brian Brown praised the Coasties for providing such stiff opposition, while his opposite number, John McLafferty, acknowledged that the Demons were the better side on the night and impressive in all departments.

"They were just too good for us. We gave away a stupid second goal and teams like Blacktown thrive on mistakes like that. Up until then we were well in the game."

CENTRAL COAST COASTIES 1

(M Falzon 23')

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 4

(J Nikas 2', S Catanzaro 51',

C Luff 88/90')

at Plum Park, Lisarow

CENTRAL COAST COASTIES: 20 Ben Xerni, 3 David Brewer 4 Mitchell Cook, 6 Aron Binskin 14 Chris Fleming, 17 Pat Bradley (C) 9 Peter Haynes (8 Daniel Surridge 73), 11 Tom Quilty (7 Peter Preston 73), 2 Josh Maguire, 10 Marc Falzon (18 Nathan Byrn 73), 13 James Monie

Sub not used: 1 Andrew Godman (RGK)

Coach: John McLafferty

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS: 1 John

Crawley (C) 15 Patrick Galt 13 Steve

Riches 49) 2 Paul Yates 3 Damien Foxe

8 Dione Vaie, 10 Naoki Imaya (4 Luke

Roodenburg 65) 9 Kain Rastall, 11 Jim

Nikas (33 Brian Vanega 90) 6 David Reid

7 Simon Catanzaro Colin Luff

Subs not used: 20 Nick Jelic (RGK) 24

Bishan Stephan

Coach: Brian Brown

Referee: Simon Przydacz

Assistants: Brad Sargent and Peter Gibbs

Fourth Official: Michael Collins

Yellow Cards: Central Coast Coasties

Chris Fleming 68 Blacktown City Demons

Naoki Imaya 25 Paul Yates 39 Luke

Roodenburg 65

Bankstown City Lions	3
A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers	1

By Paul Goodwin

Unbeaten leaders A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt were well and truly spanked by an improving Bankstown City Lions at Jensen Park on Sunday, amid a showery change in the weather.

Three minutes into the game Marcus Stergiopoulos ran onto a lob from the quick thinking Damon Langan and clipped the ball goalwards only for it to just clear the bar for the visitors. After that A.P.I.A. did not look the side that had led the competition since the first couple of games of the season.

As Bankstown began to get into the game a little more and Apia's game lacked any real spark, the locals managed to hit the lead, somewhat against the run of play.

Bryan Raeburn won the ball in a tackle on

the edge of the box, in the 20th minute, getting a favourable bounce in his challenge with a defender, then laying on a pass for the lurking Alex Asanovic who was able to beat Bob Catlin from close range.

Bankstown drew strength from this unexpected advantage handed to them and they forged further ahead in the 37th

Elias Augennos working his way down the left and into the box was clipped by Sam Larocca and went down. A free kick was then taken by the same player and Damien Luksic out-jumped a lacklustre A.P.I.A. defence to head home.

A.P.I.A. had earlier been given a good chance when La Rocca fed a through ball for Zlatko Arambasic to go on and face Zlatko Josevski, but the shot deflected wide of the target

Two more chances came the way of the visitors in the last five minutes of the half.

Ante Moric saw his shot tipped over by the keeper and right on half time Moric laid on a pass for Paul Dee whose drive just shaved the crossbar.

The second half was much the same as the first. A.P.I.A. lacked the conviction that Bankstown seemed to possess. A.P.I.A. had come through a midweek trial game with Parramatta Power while Bankstown had played one of their own against Ryde City.

Bankstown drew plenty of confidence from their midweek outing, according to their coach George Fernandez and his changed formation, relying on a counter-attacking game to capitalise on the pace of Asanovic and Robbie Gomez and all of that worked well for the home side

After Asanovic had gone close for Bankstown in the 55th and Dee had set up Steve Karavatakis for a chance that was spurned in the 56th Bankstown won a series of corners on the right, thanks to some intense pressure

Catlin was forced to tip the first of these efforts over the bar, but after a third the ball was fed deep to Asanovic who provided a perfect pass to Damien Luksic wide on the left who was then able to drill the ball low

past Catlin and make it 3-0.

A.P.I.A. pushed hard for the remainder of the game and while they were threatened a number of times by raids from the home side, they did indeed work hard for something from the game when it was all too late.

Josevski in the Bankstown goal, was in top form and made a number of good saves and blocks to deny Stergiopoulos and Karavatakis at least twice and generally having one of his best games for a while.

He was unable to stop A.P.I.A. finally getting on the scoresheet in the 86th.

Andrew Clark had gone forward and began to combine with Dee and co so when Ryan Jones provided a good, deep cross there was Clark to meet it with a bullet header. There really was no time for the goals A.P.I.A. needed to get back in the game by that advanced stage and their unbeaten record was thus undone.

Apart from the lively Dee most of the A.P.I.A. side had an off night, according to A.P.I.A. coach Les De Celis who said that his side did not deserve to win and changes would be made before the next game. He also wondered if the midweek trial had taken the edge off his side.

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS . . . 3

(A Asanovic 19', D Luksic 36/64')

A.P.I.A.-LEICHHARDT TIGERS 1

(A Clark 86')

at Jensen Park, Sefton

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS: 1 Zlatko Josevski, 2 Damien Luksic 3 Elias Augennos (15 Alex Trpovski 78), 7 Richard Luksic (C), 4 Bryan Raeburn (12 Robert Issa 72) 6 Chris Bradley, 8 Glenn Moore, 13 George Issa 15 Fernando de Los Santos 7 Alex Asanovic 13 Robert Gomez **Sub not used:** Adrian Marcellino (RGK) 17 Jane Talcevski

Coach: George Fernandez

A.P.I.A.-LEICHHARDT TIGERS: 1 Bob

Catlin 19 Andrew Clark 5 Michael

Ga.uzzo 17 Paul Dee 3 Josp Monie (11

Ryan Jones 74) 5 Marcus Stergiopoulos

(C) 15 Damon Langan 18 Ante Moric (13

Norman Tome 65 7 Sam La Rocca (14

John-Paul Boutros 38) 9 Zlatko

Arambasic 10 Steve Karavatakis

Sub not used: 20 Murray Neilson (RGK)

Coach: Les De Celis

Referee: Mark Hester

Assistant Referees: Andrew Kay and

David Finlay

Fourth Official: Keith Anderson



SOCCER NSW



	C'tury-M'ville Olympic	4
	St George Saints	1

By Paul Goodwin

An action-packed game at Henson Park saw home side Canterbury record a sound 4-1 win over St George whose only goal came in the 80th minute through a piece of Abbas Saad magic that was to prove too late to turn things around.

The Berries had an early appeal for a penalty turned down after Andy Amegashie had been badly checked inside the box by Luke McDougall.

Then, in the 24th minute, after some good lead up work Canterbury hit the lead.

Tom Maric did well to get to the byline and cut the ball back to the edge of the six yard box where Leigh Gunn slammed the ball home.

Gunn almost got another on the half hour after running onto a neat ball played over the top by Allan Picken, but Gunn could only lift his effort just over the bar.

Then in the 35th Gunn did get a second when he combined with Maric before going around the keeper nicely and slotting home.

Abbas Saad almost pulled one back for

the Saints not long before that and found the net only for an earlier foul to rule out the possibility of a goal.

Saad also nearly did it again in the 40th when his job beat the keeper but not defender Cormack Begley racing back to head clear off his goal line.

Gunn and Amegashie combined well, before the break, in a smart move that ended with Gunn hitting an upright and illustrating how much Canterbury were in control.

The game continued to look safe for Canterbury until the 80th minute when Saad scored a great individual goal to make it 2-1 and everything still to play for.

John Kyriazopoulos grabbed the third for the Berries in the 85th and then on full time Sasha Ujesenovic made it 4-1 when he found himself unmarked on the left and finished easily.

The win for the Berries, coupled with Rockdale's loss at the hand of Parramatta Eagles means that Canterbury now find themselves in fifth position as we reach the half way point in the season.

For a team that was sitting at the wrong end of the table in the early rounds, coach Woodhouse has reason to smile.



John Kyriazopoulos found the net for the Berries in the 85th.

C'BURY-M'VILLE OLYMPIC . . . 4
(L Gunn 24/35, J Kyriazopoulos 85, S Ujesenovic 90)
ST GEORGE SAINTS 1
(A Saad 80)
at Henson Park, Marrickville

CANTERBURY-MARRICKVILLE OLYMPIC: 1 Ivan Necovski, 2 Sasha Ujesenovic, 4 Cormack Begley, 16 Ben Price, 12 Tom Maric, 6 Paul Bourke, 10 Allan Picken (C), 15 Michael O'Riley (12 George Nohra 46), 18 John Kyriazopoulos, 9 Leigh Gunn (11 Aheleas Kotsopoulos 75), 14 Andy Amegashie (8 Shane Caverlin 80).
Subs not used: 20 Tristan Tulloch (RGK), 17 Akwasi Ayie.
Coach: Greg Woodhouse

ST GEORGE: 1 Con Anastasiadis, 2 Luke McDougall (3 Nick Bouanits 60), 4 Evangelos Petratos, 6 Jose Mendez, 18 Arthur Diles (20 Justin Ashby 82), 7 George Maghs, 10 Bruno Beddoni, 11 Archie Markopoulos, 13 A. Sami (8 Orhan Dincer 68), 19 Abbas Saad, 16 Tony Atkovic.
Subs not used: 17 Al Chahine, Phil Weston (RGK).
Coach: Manny Spanoudakis.
Referee: Peter Vrtkaski.
Assistant Referees: Sunny Atshar and Luigi Caraccio.
Fourth Official: Michael Johnson.
Yellow Cards: Canterbury-Marrickville, Allan Picken, Ben Price, St George, Archie Markopoulos.

	Fairfield Bulls	1
	Bonnyrigg White Eagles	3

By Greg Stock

Bonnyrigg picked up their fourth win of the Premier League season but not before a right royal scare from the bottom placed Fairfield Bulls at Nineveh Field.

Desperately seeking his first win as Bulls coach, Sam Issac unveiled his new signing Luciano Berbis after just one training session with the club, replacing Luke Tomich in the run on side.

The move paying dividends with Berbis able to capitalise on a glut of early second half possession to have his side 1-0 up with half an hour to go, and looking like they

might spring a major upset.

But Bonnyrigg aren't the sort of side that takes these things lightly and were soon back on equal terms after Dave Harding took advantage of a lucky ball, a deflection from a mistimed pass that found him unmarked when retreating back from a cleared corner. Left one on one with goalkeeper Darren Moore, he found the net in convincing fashion.

But that was just the beginning of the Fairfield woes as defender Sefer Yildiz was adjudged to be the last defender when he collided the hard running Joe Bruni in a combination of arms and legs, referee Greg Leverton having no hesitation in giving him a straight red card.



Michael Hawrysiuk about to let rip.

The momentum of the game clearly with Bonnyrigg they were able to put away two sharp chances, the first a well taken shot from Michael Hawrysiuk from just inside the penalty box, the other from Shane Knight who tried his luck from a bit of distance with pin point precision.

It was a disappointing outcome for the Bulls who matched their more illustrious opponents for the majority of the game. Midfielders Stewart Van Bentum and Adam Snyder did well, creating some space for their forwards Berbis and Mathew Borg by getting the ball quickly down the flanks and knocking in some lovely crosses.

They could have and should have fared better but some excellent goalkeeping from Fernando Greco kept the chances to a minimum while his opposite Darren Moore did likewise in an entertaining first half.

But realistically, the sendoff of Yildiz and the bounce of the ball cost Fairfield a share of the points, with coach Issac forced to wait yet another week for his first result.

FAIRFIELD BULLS 1
(L Berbis 60)
BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES 3
(D Harding 63, M Hawrysiuk 66, S Knight 87)
at Nineveh Field, Edensor Park

FAIRFIELD BULLS: Darren Moore, Jason Connolly, Sefer Yildiz, Mitchell Daby, Stewart Van Bentum, Ismael Arrarte, Ben Green, Sam Gewargis, Adam Snyder, Luciano Berbis, Mathew Borg.
Coach: Sam Issac.
BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES: Fernando Greco, Mark D'Alessandro, Fernando Perlegrino, Mik Simonovic (Johnny Ghisso, Taylan Devrimot, Devrim Huseyin, Javier Mancino, David Harding (Joe Bruni), Michael Hawrysiuk, Shane Knight (Zlatko Donay), Aaron Burgess.
Coach: Luke Janney.
Referee: Greg Leverton.
Assistant Referees: Wayne Spagno and Len Romero.
Fourth Official: Terry Goodnow.
Red Card: Sefer Yildiz 65.

FROM THE SIDELINES By Greg Stock

*Referee Simon Przydacz made his long awaited return to the park on the weekend, in control of the Central Coast v Blacktown City clash at Plum Park.

Przydacz had been away in Europe for the past few weeks with his wife Melissa taking in the sights and sounds, including the Liverpool v Aston Villa game in the English Premier League! It was his first Premier League match in about six weeks with another exemplary performance in order from one of the states best whistle-blowers.

*Does anyone remember Steve Angelov? Well he has turned up again, donning a Parramatta Eagles shirt on Saturday night to replace the injured Jason Holmes. A former Young Socceroo and Schoolboy International in his younger days, many pundits thought we had seen the last of him after an indifferent stint with the Coasties a few seasons back. But he has returned via a season with the

Illawarra Lions and a couple in the Illawarra Premier League, before Fraser Park coach Ian Gillan swooped to sign him over the Christmas break. On loan to the Eagles until the start of the Winter Super League season, he had a superb game against Rockdale on Saturday night and could be one to look out for over the next few weeks.

*On the subject of Jason Holmes' injury, coach John Calleja has confirmed the damage to his shoulder is not as bad as first thought, and he will be back in 2-3 weeks.

*Parramatta Eagles striker Tim Gledhill has been appointed as the Complex Manager at Valentine Sports Park. Tim starts his new role this week and will be a welcome addition to the staff at Parklea.

*A new arrival for the Bonnyrigg clan

with Kindness Agwu's wife presenting him with a little baby girl Ruby last weekend.

*Blacktown City defender Dane Hokin has been in the wars of late, picking up yet another injury in the under 19 clash with his old club Central Coast. Already nursing a nasty back injury, Hokin could be out of action for a while after damaging a leg, while his team mate Patrick Gatt could also be out for a while after straining his medial ligament.

*Fairfield have seemingly parted company with Adam Peatey, in a strange move, the influential midfielder set to sign with a Winter Super League club alongside former Coasties team mate Michael Williams, who we believe is moving to Sydney very shortly.

*Rumour of the week is that a former NSL midfielder and high profile Winter

Super League star has been seen at Fraser Park's pre-season training this week. One confirmed signing for the Jets is none other than former Canterbury-Marrickville utility Greg Collins who agreed to terms over Christmas. One date for fans to keep marked is February 22nd where they have pencilled in a friendly game with Northern Spirit at Kogarah's Jubilee Oval.

*The schedules for the Winter leagues are now available on the Soccer NSW website (www.soccernsw.com.au) with most interest surrounding the 13 team Winter Super League competition.

The season kicks off on Saturday night March 1st up at Cromer Park with the Phil Moss coached Dolphins hosting the Chris Cowley led Ryde City.

The season continues every weekend right through to the weekend of the 23rd and 24th August when the Semi Final series commences. With thirteen teams in

the league it means that one side will have a bye each week with six matches each weekend. All sides will play twice over the Easter break on the Saturday and again on the Monday, with the Grand Final is due for decision on the weekend of the 13th and 14th of September.

The only side yet to nominate a home ground is Hurstville City Crescent Star while their former partners Hurstville City Minotaurs will use Rockdale Hindon Sports Ground as their base.

Sydney University will play a couple of their home matches at the well appointed Wentworth Park while Macarthur Rams will base themselves at the Campbelltown Sports Ground.

All eyes this year will be on the John Turner coached Sutherland sharks who will play all their home games on Saturday evenings at the picturesque Seymour Shaw Park in Miranda.



SOCCER NSW



ROUND 10 RESULTS

FIRST GRADE

Penrith Panthers0	Central Coast Coasties1 (M Falzon 23')	Bankstown City Lions3 (A Asanovic 19', D Luksic 36'/64')
Belconnen Blue Devils1 (D Macor 10')	Blacktown City Demons4 (J Nikas 2', S Catanzaro 51', C Luff 88/90')	A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers1 (A Clark 86')
Rockdale City Suns2 (P Apolevski 15', R Todorovski 42')	Fairfield Bulls1 (L Berbus 60')	C'bury-M'ville Olympic4 (L Gunn 24'/35', J Kyriazopoulos 85', S Utjesenovic 90')
Parramatta Eagles4 (D Kukucka 14/79', P O'Grady 60', M Reveley 71')	Bonnyrigg White Eagles3 (M Hawrysiuk 63'/66', Shane Knights 87')	St George Saints1 (A Saad 80')

UNDER 19

Penrith Panthers1 (C Lima 33')	Central Coast Coasties1 (B Murrell 32')	Bankstown City Lions0
Belconnen Blue Devils1 (A Rakic 72')	Blacktown City Demons6 (B Stefan 38/77/87, R Galayini 19/84', M Wood 8')	A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers1 (R Restuccia 39')
Rockdale City Suns1 (S Tanevski 4')	Fairfield Bulls0	C'bury-M'ville Olympic1 (R Hyazi 10)
Parramatta Eagles0	Bonnyrigg White Eagles2 (T Macrae 27', own goal 73')	St George Saints0

FIRST GRADE

UNDER 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers	10	5	4	1	19	10	19
Central Coast Coasties	10	5	3	2	15	14	18
Parramatta Eagles	10	4	5	1	15	7	17
Blacktown City Demons	10	5	2	3	17	13	17
C'bury M'ville Olympic	9	4	4	1	12	8	16
Rockdale City Suns	10	4	3	3	20	17	15
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	10	4	2	4	15	15	14
Penrith Panthers	10	3	3	4	14	11	12
Belconnen Blue Devils	8	2	4	2	10	10	10
Bankstown City Lions	9	3	1	5	11	16	10
St George Saints	10	2	0	8	8	21	6
Fairfield Bulls	10	1	1	8	11	25	4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blacktown City Demons	10	8	2	0	39	8	26
Rockdale City Suns	10	7	2	1	20	11	23
Parramatta Eagles	10	6	3	1	20	8	21
A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers	10	5	2	3	18	14	17
Penrith Panthers	10	4	4	2	16	10	16
C'bury M'ville Olympic	9	4	2	3	21	15	14
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	10	3	2	5	10	16	11
Belconnen Blue Devils	8	2	4	2	10	11	10
Central Coast Coasties	10	1	4	5	8	24	7
St George Saints	10	1	2	7	6	18	5
Fairfield Bulls	10	1	2	7	8	25	5
Bankstown City Lions	9	0	3	6	6	22	3

NEXT ROUND

ROUND 11

FIRST GRADE

HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	DATE	KICK-OFF	GROUND
Belconnen Blue Devils	v Fairfield Bulls	Sat 8 Feb	7:00pm	McKellar Soccer Centre
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v Central Coast Coasties	Sat 8 Feb	7:00pm	Serbian Centre
Rockdale City Suns	v Blacktown City Demons	Sat 8 Feb	7:00pm	John Crehan Park
A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers	v Penrith Panthers	Sun 9 Feb	6:00pm	Lambert Park
St George Saints	v Bankstown City Lions	Sun 9 Feb	6:00pm	St George Stadium
Parramatta Eagles	v C'bury M'ville Olympic	Sun 9 Feb	6:00pm	Melita Stadium

UNDER 19

HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	DATE	KICK-OFF	GROUND
Belconnen Blue Devils	v Fairfield Bulls	Sat 8 Feb	7:00pm	McKellar Soccer Centre
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	v Central Coast Coasties	Sat 8 Feb	7:00pm	Serbian Centre
Rockdale City Suns	v Blacktown City Demons	Sat 8 Feb	7:00pm	John Crehan Park
St George Saints	v Bankstown City Lions	Sun 9 Feb	6:00pm	St George Stadium
Parramatta Eagles	v C'bury M'ville Olympic	Sun 9 Feb	6:00pm	Melita Stadium

TOP GOALSCORERS

10 — Spase Najdoski (Rockdale City Suns)

- Zlatko Arambasic (A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt).
- Marko Perinovic (Belconnen Blue Devils), Aaron Burgess (Bonnyrigg White Eagles), Colin Luff (Blacktown City/Bankstown City), Robert Todorovski (Rockdale City Suns), Luke Roodenberg (Blacktown City), James Monie (Central Coast), Danny Hinton (Penrith Panthers), Simon Catanzaro (Blacktown City), Daniel Kukucka (Parramatta Eagles).
- Rod Hutchinson (Penrith Panthers), Ante Monic (A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt), Steve Karavatakis (A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt), Mathew Borg (Fairfield Bulls), Nathan Rivera (Parramatta Eagles), Josh Maguire (Central Coast), Leigh Gunn (Canterbury), Shane Knight (Bonnyrigg White Eagles).
- Paul Bourke (Canterbury-Marrickville), Allan Picken (Canterbury-Marrickville), Marc Hoensejaars (Fairfield Bulls), Clinton Larfield (Belconnen Blue Devils), Ben Deighan (Rockdale City Suns), Ben Delcata (Parramatta Eagles), Andy Amegashie (Canterbury), Daniel McCann (Penrith Panthers), Bruno Beddoni (St. George), Sean Matthews (Central Coast), Robert Angrevski (Fairfield Bulls), Marc Falzon (Central Coast), Michael Hawrysiuk (Bonnyrigg), Damien Luksic (Bankstown), Alex Asanovic (Bankstown City), Sasha Utjesenovic (Canterbury-Marrickville), Daniel Macor (Belconnen).

For all the latest news, results and information check out www.nswpremierleague.com



SOCCER NSW



ROUND 11 PREVIEW



Belconnen Blue Devils VS Fairfield Bulls



Saturday 8th February, 2003 - 7.00pm
MCKELLAR SOCCER CENTRE, MCKELLAR

Belconnen bounced back from the tragedy of the bushfire crisis, to record a first up win after three weeks of inactivity.

Their 1-0 win wasn't one of their better efforts, but it did reap them a valuable three points which sees them just six points outside fifth spot with two matches in hand.

What is more encouraging is the return to active duty of a number of Blue Devils players who had been on the injured list, with as many as five key first graders back and on deck.

Daniel Macor picked up a useful goal last week and his combination with the veteran Marko Pennovic

will be one for fans to keep an eye on this week.

Fairfield's woes continued last Sunday night when beaten 3-1 in the local derby by Bonnyrigg. New coach Sam Issac got the best out of his charges, changing the starting lineup just minutes before kickoff to include new signing Luciano Berbis, the result of which was a shock lead after 60 minutes.

Despite being overrun with just ten men in the later stages of the game, there was a lot to like about the Bulls performance and they look to be getting back to some competitive form. Defender Sefer Yildiz will miss

the match with a weeks suspension with Berbis again likely to get a start in front of the reliable Luke Tomuch. His partner Mathew Borg had some nice touches last week and looks to be rediscovering his old form. With many changes within the Bulls squad over the past three weeks they are settling down to a rhythm.

In their last trip to the nations capital the Bulls recorded a high scoring 4-4 draw with the return match also deadlocked at 2-2.

Given the nature of both sides, that result again looks likely with both sides still a week or so away from producing their best form.



Bonnyrigg White Eagles VS Central Coast Coasties



Saturday 8th February, 2003 - 7.00pm
SERBIAN CENTRE, BONNYRIGG

Another appetising match for the neutrals, as well as the committed, is this one.

Bonnyrigg is not about to sacrifice any home points after getting their season back on track recently.

Their latest game at Nineveh Field against Fairfield Bulls, while it was a local derby that had the usual extra edge, was hardly a tough game on paper.

This one certainly is.

Central Coast has been in fine form at home and away and showed with their fighting 1-1 draw at Melita Stadium that they fear nobody.

They were right in the game

against Blacktown last weekend until the last three minutes and always looked capable of winning it until conceding a goal early in the second half and at least snatching a draw for most of the game.

Maybe John McLafferty will ring the changes but there was nothing really wrong with the Coasties performance in that game other than poor finishing in the first half.

In an interesting match up, in-form White Eagles midfielder Shane Knight will face the club that he played his junior football with. I'm sure there will be no love lost when the Coasties boys gave Shane some

extra special attention when they lined up on Saturday night.

Bonnyrigg will need to focus fully if they are to take maximum points from this one. Coming off a win at Fairfield seems hardly the kind of result to base final chances on and if the Coasties apply themselves there is no reason to assume a Bonnyrigg win.

The Coasties had surprised many this season but when they face quality opposition they seem to be vulnerable in the last 10 minutes having copped goals against A.P.I.A. and Blacktown during this danger period. Coach McLafferty will be wary of this come Saturday.



Rockdale City Suns VS Blacktown City Demons



Saturday 8th February, 2003 - 7.00pm
JOHN CREHAN PARK, PENRITH

Rockdale host their second home game in a row, and it doesn't get any tougher than this with the visit of the fourth placed Demons.

After recording their third loss all season, Rockdale have slipped out of the top five for the first time in weeks, occupying sixth position one point behind the Berners.

A win this week would see them leapfrog Blacktown back into the top five, so this week they'll have no excuses as far as putting their best foot forward.

Captain Spase Nardoski is in some doubt after the veteran striker came

off last Saturday night after twenty minutes with a hamstring problem. His replacement is pencilled in as Trent Worrell, while Vadim Mikoutski will again be listed on the substitutes bench.

Blacktown City have turned around their loss to the Eagles, by defeating the high flying Coasties 4-1. With striker Colin Luff netting twice, coach Brian Brown looks to have finally settled on his best eleven, utilizing the hard running Luke Roodenberg off the bench.

Dane Hokin and Patrick Gatt are the only players in doubt, Gatt with knee troubles and Hokin struggling

with a leg problem that could keep him out for a few weeks. Brown will probably opt for left footer, Steven Riches to fill the hole and keep any changes to a bare minimum.

In their eighteen previous meetings, the Suns have won only one of eighteen, that result being a 1-0 win back in 1994.

With a top five spot on the line and the leagues top scorer, the great Spase in some doubt, this little black duck is sticking his neck out to predict a hard fought Demons win and Colin Luff to run the winner in the last five minutes.



A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers VS Penrith Panthers



Sunday 9th February, 2003 - 6.00pm
LAMBERT PARK, LEICHHARDT

A.P.I.A. remain at the top of the league by virtue of some pretty solid form this term, but they still lack conviction at home where they have dropped points to the likes of Parramatta and Canterbury-Marrickville.

Their best win, over Central Coast, came with a flurry of late goals in a game the Coasties might have drawn with a little more self belief in the early part of the game.

Penrith does not lack self belief and it has unearthed a pretty formidable and adaptable strike force this season with a lot of options when players are injured.

Penrith have been missing badly the injured duo of Danny Hinton and Rod Hutchinson and with both of those players likely to be available for selection once more coach Tony Rassmussen will again have the armoury to trouble the Tigers.

Last season the Panthers played twice at the Leichhardt ground, following a ground switch and obtained 0-0 draws from both games.

A year earlier they also took a point.

They will go into this game mindful of those previous visits to Lambert Park which have been fairly productive and look for something

positive once more. With the Bankstown game fresh in the memory the Tigers will be looking for a big improvement here to put that memory behind them and get some space between themselves and the chas ng pack.

Expect a very fast and physical game. It may not be the prettiest of fixtures this round, but it will definitely be important for both clubs heading into the season turnaround.

A.P.I.A. will be looking to consolidate their top position and Penrith need the win to keep in touch with a top five position.



St George Saints VS Bankstown City Lions



Sunday 9th February, 2003 - 6.00pm
ST GEORGE STADIUM, ROCKDALE

These two near cellar-dwellers both would feel that they are in a false position so maybe this will be a chance for one of them to prove it!

St George have faltered at home in most of their matches but did manage one notable result, a 3-0 success over Bonnyrigg.

It looks as if Bankstown may be on the way back now so the Saints will certainly need to look lively.

The ability of Bankstown to focus for the full ninety minutes may hold the key here. If they can, then the points may go their way, but with home advantage it looks more likely

that St George will prevail here.

Bankstown have won their last two games now and their win over A.P.I.A. was full of merit.

Newcomer Alex Asanovic has looked a real handful for defences in each of his outings for his new club and should again make life difficult for the Saints.

Following their morale boosting win over A.P.I.A. the Lions will be looking for their first away win of the season and will be confident of getting it here.

St George now have Abbas Saad fit again and his combination with Bruno Beddomi at St George Stadium

could well make Bankstown sit up and take notice.

If they don't keep an eye on Saad they may regret it. Beddomi is also due to find some form and then there is Tony Alilovic to throw into the mix.

One problem that St George has is that they have conceded on average a little over two goals a game but only scoring on average a little under one goal a game. These statistics need to be reversed for the Saints to avoid a relegation battle.

It looks quite an intriguing game in fact.



Parramatta Eagles VS Canterbury-Marrickville Olympic



Sunday 9th February, 2003 - 6.00pm
MELITA STADIUM, SOUTH GRANVILLE

One competition point separates both these teams or in the old fashioned language third against fifth.

The Eagles continue their rise up the premiership ladder posting a 4-2 win over Rockdale last Saturday night, scoring three goals in nineteen minutes to bury the Suns. The form of enigmatic striker Daniel Kukucka was of great encouragement to coach John Calleja who is looking for one of his forwards to really stick his hand up as a targetman.

With the back three of Paul O'Grady, Michael Kladis and Mark Reveley tighter than the proverbial

drum, and replacement goalkeeper Steve Angelov also in good form, the pickings could be mighty slim for the visitors.

Mind you, Berners coach Greg Woodhouse has been very happy with the way his team has been playing of late, their only loss way back in round three to Rockdale. Since then they are unbeaten in seven starts mixing a tough defence with some quick counterattacks on a forward line that just oozes speed.

Andy Amegashue, Abheleas Kotsopoulos and Leigh Gunn are enough to cause even the quickest defence some sleepless nights, and

their clash with the Eagles back three the expected highlight.

Mind you Canterbury does have a very good defence of their own, Tom Maric, Cormack Begley and Sasn Utejesenovic all more than capable.

Canterbury's record at Melita Stadium in recent years has been nothing short of atrocious, their last win there posted way back in 1985. In fact they have scored just one goal in their past 360 minutes of football there, not the sort of record you want when you have so much to play for this week.

Tip a draw and both coaches to go home unscathed.



SOCCER NSW



SOCCER PLAYERS AND MOVIEGOERS FORCE A GREATER UNION

Soccer NSW, in conjunction with Greater Union and Rebel Sport, launched a new and innovative program at Greater Union Hornsby on Wednesday the 29th January, 2003.

All Soccer players have been provided an incentive to attend movies at Greater Union cinemas and purchase goods at Rebel Sport, due to sponsorship arrangements with these two organisations.

From February 1 until December, 2003, all registered soccer players under the Soccer NSW banner will be entitled to a Soccer Super Saver Movie Card which will enable them to purchase discounted tickets at any of Greater Union's 15 complexes across NSW.

One dollar from every Greater Union

ticket purchased using the Soccer Super Saver Movie Card will be donated as a sponsorship to the game. Additionally, the card may be used to obtain a 5% discount at any Rebel Sport's 21 NSW retail outlets. For every purchase using the card, Rebel Sport will donate funds to the development of the game.

Soccer NSW represents some 170,000 registered players comprising junior boys and girls, senior men and women. Soccer NSW President, Mr Tom A. Doumanis, expressed his pleasure at the involvement of both Greater Union and Rebel Sport with Soccer NSW, and predicted that the recent unification of Soccer in NSW would lead to increased opportunities for sponsorship and co-operative business

ventures.

The Greater Union Organisation is the number one cinema chain in Australia, with more admissions and more screens either owned or under management than any competitor. Enjoying the largest market share in the country, the organisation has vigorously worked to redefine and reinforce the total movie going experience to the public. Mr Richard Parton, General Manager of Greater Union's Film Division said, "Greater Union is very proud to be part of such an innovative program that will directly assist the development of such an immensely popular and highly participated sport."

"As an entertainment company, you don't get far by standing still. For this reason, we're continuously developing, building and improving our products and services to capitalise on the fast evolving opportunities that arise. We are constantly looking at innovative and creative ways to ensure customer loyalty — we are continuing to develop and promote innovative concepts such as these to say ahead — not just afloat."

Mr Parton said that traditionally, the Greater Union Organisation was in the business of exhibiting films. "Today we're in the entertainment business. We're in the services industry — our company aims to make people have a good time while they are using our goods and services. We try to focus on what tomorrow's customers want and to pro-

vide it for them as soon as possible."

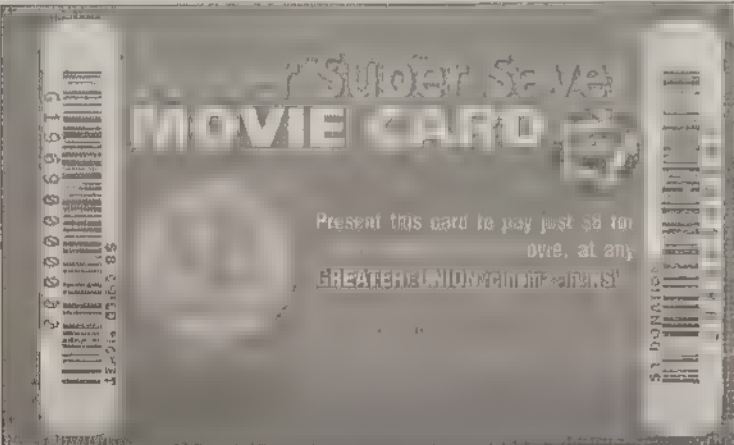
Rebel Sport is also well known as Australasia's leading retailer of sporting equipment, apparel and footwear. From humble beginnings in 1985 they have grown to become a network of 50 stores retailing in each mainland state.

"Rebel Sport is proud to be associated with Soccer NSW. Australian's are known for their love of all sports and, as Australia's largest sporting goods retailer, Rebel Sport philosophy mirrors this belief. We are always looking for ways to give back to the sporting community at large and are happy to assist in further developing soccer in NSW at the grass roots level," said Waffa Nakad, Advertising Manager, Rebel Sport.

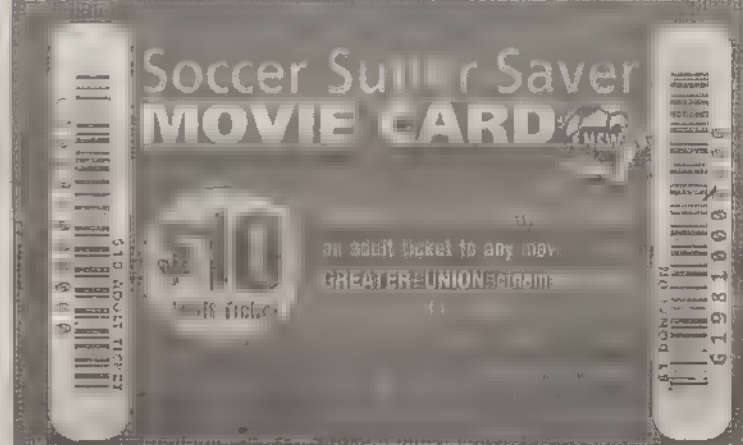
Soccer NSW vice president Mr Jim Forrest stated that the Soccer Super Saver Movie Card was an example of how Soccer NSW could benefit the grass roots of the sport, and that the board would continue to work towards fostering such programs.

The Soccer-Super Saver Movie Card comes in a convenient card sized format, and will be available to players through their local soccer club. Players must present the card to be scanned when buying their Greater Union movie tickets or purchasing goods at Rebel Sport.

For more information check out the Soccer NSW website (www.soccernsw.com.au) or email media@soccernsw.com.au



The Child Card gets you into a movie at any Greater Union Cinema in NSW for \$8 with \$1 donated back to Development of Soccer in NSW.



The Adult Card gets you into a movie at any Greater Union Cinema in NSW for \$10 with \$1 donated back to Development of Soccer in NSW.



(L-R) Darren Condon (National Film Marketing Manager, Greater Union), Carol Bright (Regional Manager, Greater Union), Alister Forsyth (Store Manager, Rebel Sport Hornsby), Bobby Clark (Board Member of Soccer NSW) with David, Tim, Mitchell, Matthew, Nicholas, Jarrod, Rachel and Elizabeth from Mt Colah Soccer Club at the Greater Union Hornsby for the Launch of the Soccer Super Saver Card.



SOCCER NSW



J-P's Coaching Tips

SOCCER NSW GOES BACK TO SCHOOL

Hi Everyone,

I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Years break and are ready for the upcoming soccer season.

This week all NSW schools have gone back for another year, and so to does the Soccer NSW Schools Development Officers

Taryn Rockall and Todd Brodie will be visiting Primary Schools throughout NSW including visits to Country NSW for gala days, competitions and promotions.

Following last year's successful "Introduction to Coaching Course for School Teachers", there will also be further coaching seminar's planned throughout 2003.

During the visits the Development Officers will put pupils through their paces by conducting basic coaching sessions involving passing, dribbling and shooting. All these activities are bundled together in fun game related exercises

An example of a normal 45 minute school visit

goes a little something like this:

- School Children sit down in a group and meet their Soccer NSW School's development officer.

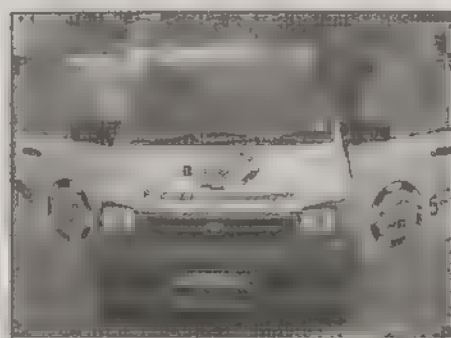
- A warm-up activity follows that usually involves a fun game that gets the kids moving and switched on.

- The first drill may involve passing, where the children stand in lines about 5m apart and then learn the correct technique to pass the ball to their team-mates

- After this is mastered, the next activity may be dribbling, where the children then dribble the ball through cones in groups. Sometimes you can make this a sort of competition with groups competing against each other to be the fastest team to dribble through the cones.

- After doing the basic skills, we then move into some game activities involving the skills that they just learnt. An example of which is a mini-world cup tournament where the group is broken up into teams of 3 or 4 (depending on the number of people) and they pick whichever country (or sometimes team)

they would like to represent. These teams then play 3 v 3 (or 4 v 4) on a small field (10m x 15m) with goals about 1m apart. Unlike the World Cup, there are no losers, only winners with the emphasis on participation.



Taryn and Todd about to hit the road.

- By then it's about time to finish up. The School's Development Officers then sit the children down in a group and answer any questions they have about soccer. And that's about it.

If you or someone you know is interested in having the Soccer NSW School's Development Officers visit your Primary School, please contact Taryn or Todd at Soccer NSW by email (schools@soccernsw.com.au) or phone 9629 1800.

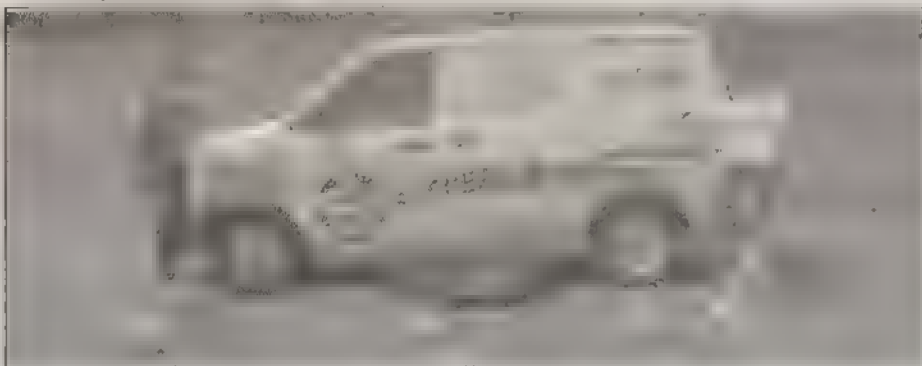
That's all for this week,
Until next week,

Happy coaching,
Jean-Paul de Marigny
Coaching and Development Manager,
Soccer NSW

School's Development Program

February

4th	Lewisham PS	Lewisham
5th	Narellan Vale PS	Narellan Vale
7th	Eastern Creek PS	Eastern Creek
	Cattai PS	Cattai
10th	Lynwood Park PS	Blacktown
11th	Emerton PS	Emerton
13th	Mary Immaculate	Quakers Hill
14th	Eastern Creek PS	Eastern Creek
	Miller PS	Liverpool
17th	Lynwood Park PS	Blacktown
18th	Leppington PS	Leppington
20th	Mary Immaculate	Quakers Hill
21st	Eastern Creek PS	Eastern Creek
	Lane Cove West PS	Lane Cove
	Canterbury PS	Canterbury
25th	Leppington PS	Leppington
	Mona Vale PS	Mona Vale
26th	Holy Family	Lindfield
	Cabramatta West	Cabramatta
27th	Corpus Christi	St Ives
	Mary Immaculate	Quakers Hill
	Banks PS	St Clair
28th	Hambledon PS	Quakers Hill
	Kings Langley	Kings Langley
	Banks PS	St Clair



Soccer NSW Schools Development Officers, Todd Brodie (left) and Taryn Rockall (right).



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What Time:

9.00am-5.00pm (both days)

Where:

Valentine Sports park, Glenwood, NSW

Who:

Any Women or Girls with an interest in Soccer (must be over 15 years)

How Much:

\$98.00 (including GST)

For more information or an application form, contact Tricia at Soccer NSW by email (tricia@soccernsw.com.au) or phone

(02) 9629 1800

For more information about Coaching accreditation courses, check out our website.
www.soccernsw.com.au

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NEW SOUTH WALES GETS 6 IN U17 JOEYS SQUAD

Last week, when Australian National Youth Coach ANGE POSTECOGLOU today named a 20-man squad for next month's FIFA U-17 World Championship qualifying tournament, 6 players from NSW were included in the squad; Nathan Hughes (Northern Spirit), Jacob Timpano (Wollongong Wolves), Eric Paartalu (NSW Institute of Sport), Angelo Martino (Parramatta Power), Lachlan Cahill (Olympic Sharks), and Richie Cardozo (Parramatta Power).

What these players have in common is that they are all products of the NSW Institute of Sport (NSWIS) Soccer Program. Under the watchful eye of the Head Coach Kelly Cross, these players were selected from the NSW Premier Youth League to join the NSWIS scholarship scheme in 2000.

Over the two years in the program, these players trained intensively and also toured Europe playing against the likes Feyenoord, Borussia Dortmund, Bayer Leverkusen.

All six players represented NSW at the National Talent Identification Championships and were part of the Championship winning Under 15 team in 2001.

"It's always pleasing as a development

coach to see players that you have selected at 14 and have worked with for two years achieve their goal of representing their country," said NSWIS Head Coach Kelly Cross.

"It also says alot for the NSWIS program that we have consistently produces so many National Representatives. In fact we were a little unlucky not to have a few more players selected as well. Stefan Del Zio must have been close to final selection and Glenn Littlebury definitely has what it takes to be part of the National team. Chris Theodosiou may have also figured had he not been coming back from injury," concluded Cross.



Richie Cardozo

Soccer NSW plans for future development

At the inaugural meeting of the Soccer NSW (SNSW) Board that was held on Wednesday 15th January 2003, the following committees were endorsed:

- **Business Development and Investment Committee** — Howard Bradley (Treasurer and Chairman), Rob Laws (Assistant Treasurer), Jim Ronis and Jim Forrest.
- **Complex and Administration Committee** — Ross Kelly (Chairman), David Goodman and Jim Ronis.
- **Development and Coaching Committee** — Ray Tweedie (Chairman), David Goodman and Tom A. Doumanis.
- **Marketing, Media and Communications Committee** — Robert Clark (Chairman).
- **State Referees Commission** — Ross Kelly (Chairman)
- **Female Participation Committee** — Rob Laws (Chairman), Joe Camden and Vicki Tidswell.
- **State Teams and Special Events Committee** — Frank Wilson (Chairman) and Jim Forrest.
- **Senior Competitions Committee (Council of Clubs)** — Robert Clark (Chairman) and Jim Ronis.
- **Indoor and Futsal Committee** — Jim Ronis (Chairman) and Tom A. Doumanis.
- **Youth League and State Associations' Competitions (Council of Associations)** — Jim Forrest (Chairman) and Tom A. Doumanis.
- **Policy Development Committee** — Tom A. Doumanis (Chairman), Jim Forrest and Ross Kelly.

These committees will be meeting in the near future to develop strategies for the newly unified body. Each of these committee will provide recommendations to the board for the benefit of the game in NSW.



BLAST FROM THE PAST: Last week when we cleaning up the Media Offices at Soccer NSW we stumbled upon this photo from the 1977 Under 18 National Championships. After talking to people around the office, we put a couple of names to ~~haircuts~~ faces, but if anyone out there can help us ID who's who, and the venue, then please email media@soccernsw.com.au

DRAWS RELEASED FOR 2003

The Draws for the following competitions now appear on the Soccer NSW website (www.soccernsw.com.au/mr220103draw2003.html)

The draws are in pdf and Microsoft Excel formats for ease of use. Please note that all draws are subject to change from time to time and you should check with your club secretary and the website to confirm fixtures.

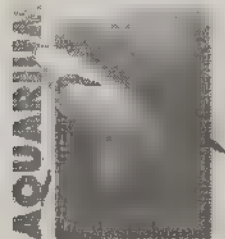
Season 2003 Draws Online

Winter Super League
State League Division One
State League Division Two
State League Division Three

Women's Super League
Women's State League

Premier Youth League
Super Youth League
Division One Youth League
attack U11 Metropolitan Youth League
S.S.I. Girls Youth League

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ITALIAN SERIE A

ITALIAN AFFAIR

By Joe Russo

Australia had the Josip Simunic and Ante Seric cases - players who turned their backs on their country of birth to play for Croatia, the birthplace of their parents.

Ajax Amsterdam's goalkeeper Joe Didulica may do the same now especially since he has been overlooked for the Socceroo squad against England in the upcoming game in London.

Argentina now has Mauro Camoranesi who may do the same thing and play for Italy. Camoranesi is a striker who plays with Juventus and this year has been a prolific goalscorer.

It is interesting to read about this case because it goes to show that even at national level there is very little loyalty towards your country. It is sad when players feel that if they are not picked by one country that they will just turn to another for selection.

Argentina's coach Marcelo Bielsa for a friendly game against Holland has overlooked Camoranesi in a few days time and there is now speculation that Italy's Giovanni Trapattoni could pick him to play against Portugal.

However, the question that remains is if Camoranesi is any better than what Italy already has? Christian Vieri, Filippo Inzaghi, Alex Del Piero, Vincenzo Montella, Marco Delvecchio and Marco Di Vaio are amongst those that may have something to say about that.

Surely something can be done by FIFA to stop players selecting a second country if their first choice falls through. Frankly players with that sort of attitude should never play international football. To play for your country should be something that comes from the heart and not from the pay packet or be something that is done for personal glamour.

Trapattoni would be well advised to leave Camoranesi alone and stick to the players he's already got.

♦♦♦♦

It is also interesting to hear that Gianluca Vialli is set to return to Italy in some capacity after seven years in England. Exactly what Vialli is going to do is somewhat of a mystery still.

The former Sampdoria, Juventus and Chelsea striker was one who played for the Azzurri with great pride and he was shattered when the then national boss, Arrigo Sacchi, told him that his services were no longer required.

A few months ago Vialli was a strong favourite to replace Trapattoni but that rumour seems to have temporarily died down. Nevertheless it is still something that should happen to the Azzurri. Trapattoni is yesterday's man and Vialli, with his English experience, could introduce a revolutionary new style of football that Italy so desperately needs.

Under Trapattoni Italy has fallen so far behind that it may take decades for them to recover. Ironically for Vialli, it was his nemesis Sacchi who last introduced a new style of play in Italian football with AC Milan in the late 1980's.

♦♦♦♦

Little Sicilian Serie B club Catania has recently been in the news because their coach, John Toshack, resigned. The former Real Madrid boss had taken over the reigns there this season but his reason for going there in the first place must be questioned.

Catania is languishing towards the bottom of the table and Toshack surely couldn't have expected any better. The club oscillates on a regular basis between Serie B and Serie C1 and the last time they were in the Serie A was some twenty years ago and that too was for only a season.

Toshack was in charge for only ten games and he arrived after ten rounds of the season were already completed.

For the record he won four matches and lost six but that still didn't please club President, Riccardo Gaucci, who publicly criticised him. Toshack in his illustrious career had coached Real Madrid, Real Sociedad, St Etienne and Fenerbahce and why he would bother with little Catania is anyone's guess.

After the president's criticism he decided to go and Eddie Reja, a former Serie A coach with Brescia, Vicenza and Napoli, has been announced as his replacement.



AC Milan's Andriy Shevchenko (left) beats Luca Ungari of Modena to the ball.

AC MILAN 2 MODENA 1

AC Milan left it late before breaking down Modena at the San Siro on Sunday, but they eventually triumphed 2-1.

The Rossoneri went ahead through Andrea Pirlo's penalty in the 77th minute, and from that point Carlo Ancelotti's team were in control.

Prolific striker Filippo Inzaghi increased the advantage three minutes later and secured victory, with Modena midfielder Massimo Scoponi's goal in the last minute just a consolation.

TORINO 0 INTER 2

Inter Milan negotiated a potentially perilous trip to Torino, coming away with the victory they needed to keep pace with AC Milan at the top of Serie A.

Hector Cuper's side inflicted a first defeat in five games on the Turin strugglers to deepen their relegation worries.

Christian Vieri's 48th-minute goal and Buruk Okan's 57th-minute effort ensured the points went back to Milan.

ATALANTA 1 JUVENTUS 1

Atalanta secured an important point against a disappointing Juventus at the Atleti Azzurri stadium on Sunday.

Juventus were unable to get three points in Bergamo, even though Atalanta played with 10 men for the last eight minutes of the match due to midfielder Cristiano Doni's sending off.

The home side went ahead in the 40th minute of the first half, thanks to midfielder Alessandro Pinardi.

However, Juventus reacted and five minutes into the second half striker Marco Di Vaio's goal levelled the match.

CHIEVO 1 LAZIO 1

Diego Simeone snatched a late equaliser for Lazio as they claimed a point against Chievo in a key clash in the upper reaches of the Serie A.

Simeone's 88th minute strike cancelled out Eugenio Cormi's penalty a minute before half time to keep Lazio in fourth place and Chievo in fifth.

REGGINA 3 PERUGIA 1

Reggina kept up their excellent recent form and increased their chances of avoiding relegation by beating mid-table Perugia 3-1.

Luigi de Canio's side, who caused a stir by beating Lazio last week, took the lead inside the first minute through David Di Michele, but then conceded an

instant equaliser to Rahman Rezaei.

Further Reggina goals by Francesco Cozza, in the 28th minute, and Emuliano Bonazzoli, a minute after half-time, buried the visitors.

Reggina have now won three successive games since being hammered 5-0 by Juventus in mid-January and this win saw them escape Serie A's bottom four.

EMPOLI 0 COMO 0

Como failed to follow up last week's shock 2-0 win over Roma with a second victory - but claimed a valuable point in a goalless clash at mid-table Empoli.

Como came into the match with their confidence boosted by the win over Roma, but they could not find a way past Empoli and had to settle for a point which does at least lift them off the bottom of the table.

The Serie A strugglers are now above Torino on goal difference.

PARMA 3 UDINESE 2

Udinese suffered a hangover from last week-end's victory over AC Milan, going down to a 3-2 defeat at Parma.

The Gialloblu leapfrogged the visitors in the table, thanks to goals by Adriano in the 11th minute, Simone



Julio Cruz (right) of Bologna tries to hold off AS Roma's Walter Samuel.

Barone after 52 minutes and Hidetoshi Nakata six minutes from the end.

David Marcelo Pizarro and Marek Jankulovski replied for Udinese.

Both sides played with 10 men for a large portion of the game, after Matteo Ferrari and Per Kroldup were sent off in separate incidents in the first half.

ROMA 3 BOLOGNA 1

On Saturday, Roma shrugged off their latest nightmare week by thumping Bologna at the Olympic stadium.

One of Italy's most disappointing sides this season, Fabio Capello's men began the night with just 23 points from 18 matches - form Roma supporters feared that could see them sucked into a relegation fight by the end of the campaign.

Vincenzo Montella (36) put Roma in front, but Bepe Signori levelled five minutes later.

It was one-way traffic from thereon in, though, with goals from Marco Delvecchio (51) and Antonio Cassano (72) ensuring the hosts took all three points,

PIACENZA 1 BRESCIA 4

Brescia picked up three valuable points as they inched away from the relegation zone with a win over fellow strugglers Piacenza.

Stephen Appiah opened the scoring in the sixth minute, but Dario Hubner pulled Piacenza level 11 minutes later.

However, the talismanic Roberto Baggio put Brescia back in front just after the half-hour mark to restore the lead and a minute into the second half Luca Toni made it 3-1, before Igli Tare scored the fourth with three minutes remaining.

FIXTURES

Sunday 9 February 2003

Bologna v Atalanta
Brescia v Chievo
Juventus v Empoli
Perugia v Milan
Como v Parma
Udinese v Piacenza
Inter v Reggina
Modena v Roma
Lazio v Torino

Piacenza 1 - 4 Brescia, AS Roma 3 - 1 Bologna, AC Milan 2 - 1 Modena, Atalanta 1 - 1 Juventus, Chievo 1 - 1 Lazio, Empoli 0 - 0 Como, Parma 3 - 2 Udinese, Reggina 3 - 1 Perugia, Torino 0 - 2 Inter Milan.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AC Milan	19	13	3	3	36	13	42
Inter Milan	19	13	3	3	39	20	42
Juventus	19	11	6	2	35	14	39
Lazio	19	10	7	2	34	18	37
Chievo	19	10	3	6	29	19	33
Parma	19	8	6	5	33	22	30
Bologna	19	7	7	5	22	19	28
Roma	19	7	5	7	31	28	26
Udinese	18	7	5	6	17	19	26
Perugia	19	7	4	8	24	27	25
Empoli	19	6	5	8	24	27	23
Brescia	19	5	7	7	24	28	22
Modena	19	6	2	11	13	28	20
Reggina	19	5	4	10	18	33	19
Atalanta	19	4	6	9	20	30	18
Piacenza	19	3	4	12	15	32	13
Como	19	1	8	10	11	27	11
Torino	9	2	5	12	11	34	11



ENGLISH



An English Odyssey

By Stuart Jones

Welcome back to another week of English footy. Gunners fans certainly had their hearts in their mouth this week. First came the mid week clash with Liverpool as Emile Heskey popped up in the final moments of the match to head home an equalizer.

Then the following Saturday Arsenal scored in the dying moments of the match against Fulham thanks to Robert Pires. With news that Manchester United were beating Southampton well there must have been a flood of worry in the Gunners camp before Pires scored.

Chelsea slipped up again but it could have been worse. Teddy Sheringham scored for Spurs in the 18th minute but Spurs have not been watching the game over the last ten years it seems as they conceded a goal from Zola's free kick (and how many times has he done that in the past?).

With Jonathon Woodgate gone (as predicted in this column last week) Leeds defensive woes were clear for all to see as they fell at the hands of Everton, losing 2-0. Perhaps though the most farcical game of Saturday was Sunderland's. The Black Cats scored three goals and found themselves 0-3 down!

The first goal is officially credited to Mark Fish of Charlton although it took two deflections on the way to the net but the next two were certainly own goals. Sunderland managed to score one in the correct net but it was not enough and coupled with other results the team from the North East find themselves sitting in last position for the first time this season.

Bolton and WBA both won to move them off the bottom. The big North East clash - Middlesbrough verses Newcastle - was cancelled due to the bad weather engulfing the whole of England.

Leeds chairman Peter Risdale has received death threats since the sale of English international defender Jonathon Woodgate. Woodgate's sale almost led to Terry Venables departing so the rumour mongers had it but Venables is staying, for now at least. Woodgate left for Newcastle in a nine million pound deal that left his former Yorkshire side's fans exasperated.

With Robbie Fowler also leaving for Manchester City (so much for his quotes last week on sticking it out, this adds to the conspiracy theories surrounding Leeds that there have been forced departures) - the Elland Road faithful are very disenchanted although Risdale says he has to sell to balance the books at the club.

In other transfer news around the top flight

Southampton have swooped to sign Nottingham Forest midfielder David Prutton for £2.5 million.

West Ham have signed Arsenal youngster David Noble on a short term loan with the possibility of a full deal at the season end. The midfielder has not played a first team game for the Gunners and spent most of last season on loan at Watford.

Despite only tying up the £3.5 million sale of Michael Ricketts to Middlesbrough with just 30 minutes of the transfer window remaining, Bolton boss Sam Allardyce still managed to sneak in two French signings of his own.

Wanderers have captured 28-year-old striker Pierre-Yves Andre from Nantes and 29-year-old centre half Florent Laville from Lyon on loan until the end of the season.

Both have played in the Champions League for their respective clubs and impressed in trials at the Reebok Stadium last month. Tottenham missed out on Ricketts despite their persistent interest in the striker.

Arsenal's goal keeping crisis was lessened with the signing of Frenchman Guillaume Wamuz. Gunners boss Arsene Wenger stated this week that he now had the 'perfect squad'.

Middlesbrough striker Alen Boksic has announced his retirement at the end of the season. It remains to be seen whether he plays a season back in Croatia before finally putting up the boots.

The focus has been on the Premier League this week as the transfer window closed for the final time this season. Keep enjoying your football from England, put your seat belt on and enjoy the run home. Carlisle supporters - they have now won three in a row!

Arsenal left it until injury time to seal a 2-1 win over capital rivals Fulham which puts them six points clear at the top of the Barclays Premiership.

The Gunners led at Highbury thanks to a downward header from Robert Pires in the 17th minute, but 12 minutes later his fellow Frenchman Steed Malbranque scored his fifth goal in three games with a stunning volley.

But the champions showed their mettle at the death and Pires struck his second for three valuable points.

Manchester United kept pace with Arsene Wenger's side with a 2-0 win at Southampton. Ryd van Nistelrooy's hot streak continued as he netted his seventh goal in as many games to give Manchester United the lead after 15 minutes at the St Mary's Stadium.

The Dutchman turned the ball in from close range from a Gary Neville pass and a rejuvenated Ryan Giggs made it 2-0 seven minutes later when he fired home after Juan Sebastian Veron had stepped over the ball.

In the battle against relegation, Sunderland slipped to the bottom and were their own worst enemy at home to Charlton, losing 3-1 with own goals not helping their cause.



Stan Lazaridis of Birmingham goes past Bruno Ngotty of Bolton.

Mark Fish's poorly-struck shot deflected in off Stephen Wright and Michael Proctor unwittingly put through his own goal when the ball struck him after Chris Powell's shot had been saved by Thomas Sorensen's legs.

Unbelievably, Proctor scored a second own goal when a corner kick struck him on the back and ended up in the net.

Kevin Phillips netted a penalty with nine minutes to go after Tore Andre Flo was fouled by Jon Fortune, but it was no more than a consolation for Howard Wilkinson's men. West Brom clambered above the Black Cats and West Ham with a 2-1 win against Manchester City at Maine Road.

Neil Clement headed home in the 18th minute but City, who included Robbie Fowler in their line-up for the first time, equalised when Phil Gilchrist got a last unfortunate touch to put past his own goalkeeper Russell Hoult.

However, the Baggies restored their lead with 19 minutes left as Darren Moore stabbed the ball into the net from close range. Gary Megson's men had to cope with 10 men for the last 10 minutes after Jason Roberts was sent off after a

clash with City new boy David Sommeil.

Bolton cut the gap between them and 16th placed Birmingham to two points when they beat the Blues 4-2 in a seesaw match at the Reebok Stadium, a result which draws Steve Bruce's team into the relegation dogfight.

Wanderers went 1-0 ahead when Ricardo Gardner crossed in from the left and just as City goalkeeper Ian Bennett came to gather, defender Kenny Cunningham muscled the ball into his own net in the 12th minute.

Robbie Savage ensured Birmingham were level at Bolton at the break. The Welshman turned the ball in from two yards following a square ball from Stan Lazaridis.

Within a minute of the match resuming Bolton restored their advantage when Henrik Pedersen turned the ball in at the far post from Youn Djorkaeff's pass but once again the Trotters let their lead slip as Stephen Clemence released Clinton Morrison, who made no mistake when through on goal on the hour.

But Sam Allardyce's team fought on and won the match thanks to Djorkaeff's match winning strike six minutes from time and substitute Delroy Facey made it safe three minutes later with a fourth.

Honours were even between London rivals Chelsea and Tottenham as they drew 1-1 at Stamford Bridge.

Teddy Sheringham scored Spurs' goal in the 18th minute as the Blues defenders appealed for offside but Chelsea's own veteran striker Gianfranco Zola provided the perfect response with an exquisite curling free-kick which found the angle between the post and crossbar. Everton won 2-0 against Leeds, whose predicament on the pitch is mirroring the crisis off it.

David Unsworth scored the opening goal from the penalty spot in the 56th minute after Danny Mills had fouled Tomasz Radzinski as he broke through.

The Canadian striker then produced an assured finish to double the Toffees' lead and keep them on course for at least a UEFA Cup place next season.

Middlesbrough's home clash with near-neighbours Newcastle was called off on Friday because of wintry conditions in the north east.

The pitch at the Riverside Stadium was deemed playable, but the stands and approaches to the ground were covered in snow, making it potentially dangerous for supporters. West Ham's hopes of climbing towards safety with back-to-back home wins were blown away as Glenn Roeder's Premiership strugglers slumped to a 3-0 defeat by Liverpool at Upton Park.

The Hammers, who finally gained their first home league win of the season in midweek, never recovered after finding themselves two goals behind after only nine minutes.

The first blow came on six minutes as John Arne Riise delivered an inswinging corner from the right and Baros rose unchallenged inside the six yard box to head home his sixth Barclays Premiership goal of the season.

It was a similar story two-and-a-half minutes later when Riise delivered a deeper corner and goalkeeper David James came out to punch a half-hearted clearance. The ball fell to Steven Gerrard just outside the area and he drilled a low shot inside the far post.

And it was no surprise when Liverpool added a third goal from a 67th minute corner.

Riise swung the ball to the far post, Sami Hyypia headed the ball back into the six-yard box and Emile Heskey nipped in front of James to kill off any hopes of a Hammers revival.

In-form striker Dion Dublin struck twice in the opening 45 minutes to help Aston Villa to a convincing 3-0 win over Blackburn at Villa Park.

Dublin broke the deadlock after just two minutes with his 13th goal of the campaign. Joey Gudjonsson sent over an inswinging cross from the left and Dublin got in front of Martin Taylor to send a header past Brad Friedel into the corner of the net.

And five minutes before half time Dublin doubled Villa's lead with another clinical finish. Villa snuffed out any chance of a Blackburn comeback as they added a third. Barry picked up possession on the left of the area, cut inside with his left foot and planted a right-foot shot beyond Friedel.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal 2 - 1 Fulham, Bolton W. 4 - 2 Birmingham C., Chelsea 1 - 1 Tottenham H., Everton 2 - 0 Leeds U., Manchester C. 1 - 2 West Bromwich A., Middlesbrough v Newcastle U. (pp), Southampton 0 - 2 Manchester U., Sunderland 1 - 3 Charlton Athletic, West Ham U. 0 - 3 Liverpool, Aston Villa 3 - 0 Blackburn R.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	26	17	5	4	56	28	56
Man Utd	25	15	5	5	42	24	50
Newcastle	25	15	3	7	41	31	48
Chelsea	26	12	9	5	45	26	45
Everton	26	13	6	7	34	30	45
Liverpool	26	11	9	6	37	25	42
Southampton	26	10	9	7	28	25	39
Charlton	26	11	6	9	34	33	39
Tottenham	26	11	6	9	36	36	39
Man City	26	11	4	11	37	37	37
Aston Villa	26	10	5	11	30	27	35
Blackburn	26	8	10	8	31	31	34
Leeds	26	9	4	13	33	34	31
Middlesbrough	25	8	6	11	29	29	30
Fulham	25	7	6	12	26	33	27
Birmingham	25	6	8	11	22	36	26
Bolton	26	5	9	12	29	43	24
West Brom	25	5	5	15	19	37	20
West Ham	26	4	8	14	28	51	20
Sunderland	26	4	7	15	17	38	19

FIRST DIVISION

Bradford C. 2 - 0 Ipswich T., Burnley 2 - 5 Reading, Coventry C. 0 - 1 Watford, Derby County 3 - 0 Rotherham U., Leicester C. 1 - 0 Crystal Palace, Millwall 1 - 0 Sheffield U., Norwich C. 2 - 2 Stoke C., Portsmouth 3 - 0 Grimsby T., Preston North End 3 - 0 Gillingham, Sheffield W. 0 - 4 Wolverhampton W., Walsall 1 - 0 Brighton & Hove A., Wimbledon 2 - 3 Nottingham F.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portsmouth	30	18	9	3	59	29	63
Leicester	30	18	7	5	47	28	61
Sheff Utd	28	15	7	6	42	27	52
Nottn Forest	30	13	9	8	47	31	48
Reading	29	14	4	11	34	29	46
Wolverhampton	29	12	9	8	49	30	45
Norwich	29	12	9	8	41	28	45
Watford	30	13	6	11	36	45	45
Coventry	30	11	10	9	36	33	43
Millwall	30	12	7	11	38	43	43
Crystal Palace	29	10	12	7	42	31	42
Ipswich	29	11	8	10	44	36	41
Rotherham	30	11	8	11	48	42	41
Derby	30	12	5	13	38	39	41
Gillingham	28	10	9	9	36	39	39
Burnley	29	10	8	11	43	55	38
Wimbledon	28	9	8	11	45	46	35
Preston	30	8	11	11	45	49	35
Bradford	29	9	7	13	35	49	34
Walsall	30	9	6	15	41	46	33
Stoke	30	5	10	15	34	54	25
Grimsby	30	6	7	17	34	59	25
Sheff Wed	30	5	8	17	27	52	23
Brighton	29	4	8	17	26	47	20

SECOND DIVISION

Cardiff C. 1 - 1 Oldham Athletic, Peterborough U. 1 - 1 Luton T., Barnsley 1 - 1 Swindon T., Blackpool 0 - 0 Bristol C., Brentford v Huddersfield T. (pp), Crewe Alexandra 3 - 3 Northampton T., Plymouth Argyle 3 - 1 Mansfield T., Stockport County 1 - 1 Colchester U., Tranmere R. 1 - 0 Port Vale, Wigan Athletic 0 - 0 Cheltenham, Wycombe W. 3 - 1 Notts County.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	30	21	6	3	49	18	69
Crewe	29	17	6	6	51	25	57
Oldham	30	15	10	5	46	26	55
Cardiff	28	16	6	6	45	24	54
Bristol City	29	15	7	7	53	32	52
QPR	30	14	7	9	41	34	49
Tranmere	29	13	6	10	40	42	45
Luton	28	12	8	8	42	36	44
Blackpool	29	12	8	9	38	37	44
Plymouth	28	11	9	8	39	33	42
Swindon	30	10	9	11	41	43	39
Wycombe	30	10	8	12	43	40	38
Chesterfield	29	11	5	13	26	36	38
Brentford	26	10	7	9	32	30	37
Peterborough	30	7	10	13	31	39	31
Port Vale	28	8	7	13	31	41	31
Notts County	29	6	12	11	41	47	30
Stockport	30	8	6	16	40	51	30
Northampton	29	8	6	15	27	46	30
Barnsley	29	7	8	14	32	45	29
Colchester	29	6	10	13	29	42	28
Mansfield	29	8	4	17	45	64	28
Huddersfield	28	6	7	15	20	35	25
Cheltenham	28	5	10	13	24	40	25

FIXTURES

SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY, 2003

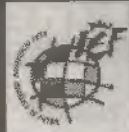
Liverpool v Middlesbrough
Birmingham City v Chelsea
West Bromwich Albion v Bolton Wanderers
Blackburn Rovers v Southampton
Charlton Athletic v Everton
Fulham v Aston Villa
Leeds United v West Ham Ltd
Tottenham Hotspur v Sunderland

SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY, 2003

Man Utd v Man City
Newcastle United v Arsenal



WORLD



Spanish Primera Liga



Primera Liga leaders Real Sociedad lost their unbeaten record on Sunday after suffering a stunning 3-0 defeat against an impressive Athletic Bilbao.

Real went into the match with 12 wins and seven draws from their 19 Primera Liga matches, but Bilbao defeated their Basque rivals home and away last season and proved up to the task once more. Joseba Etxeberria, the former Spain striker who began his career at Real, put them on the back foot when he gave home side Athletic Bilbao a 19th-minute lead.

And his second goal, arrowed past Sander Westerveld in the 74th minute, settled the issue.

Real lost their composure for perhaps the first time this season, and striker Nihat Kahveci was sent off with five minutes remaining for violent conduct. Athletic gave the scoreline a slightly misleading look when Santiago Ezquerro scored their third in the last minute. Real Madrid failed to take full advantage of Sociedad's slip-up, however, as they had to count themselves fortunate to win even a point after coming from behind to secure a 2-2 draw with Espanyol.

Madrid, who have not tasted defeat since October 19, went in 2-0 down at half-time after goals by Roger and Raul Tamudo. But two superb goals from two of Real's superstars earned Vicente del Bosque's men a point.

Brazil left-back Roberto Carlos' stunning 59th-minute effort got Madrid back in the game and a free-kick from Luis Figo in the 74th minute salvaged a draw for the European champions.

The sending-off of Alex Fernando in the 87th minute for a second bookable offence added to the home side's disappointment.

In an exciting finale, Steve McManaman could have won it for Madrid but he volleyed over from 15 yards.

Valencia, meanwhile, kept themselves in the title hunt with a narrow 1-0 win over Real Mallorca at the Mestalla.

Striker Miguel Mista came off the bench and scored what proved to be the game's only goal for the reigning champions with just 11 minutes left on the clock.



Action between Athletic Madrid and Barcelona. Athletic condemned the Catalans to yet another defeat.

Deportivo La Coruna nudged ahead of Real Betis in the chase for a Champions League place after beating their rivals 2-0. A goal by Diego Tristán in the 60th minute put Deportivo in front, and a second from Roy Makaay 12 minutes later ended hopes Betis had of taking anything from the match. The result avenged a 4-2 defeat for Javier Irureta's men inflicted on them by Betis in their first match of the season at the Riazor.

Gustavo Benítez's first game in charge of Rayo Vallecano at Alaves ended in a 1-1 draw. Roberto Peragon put Vallecano ahead in the 20th minute, and they held that lead until deep into the second half. But they shot themselves in the foot when Jorge Azkoina was sent off for two rash fouls after 59 minutes. Antonio Karmona levelled up for the home side 12 minutes later. Sevilla recovered from Copa del Rey disappointment in midweek to ease their relegation fears with a 1-0 win over Celta Vigo.

Joaquín Caparrós' side were eliminated from the cup by a late penalty from Osasuna, but they refused to go down again in Vigo.

Celta, who gave Louis van Gaal a shove towards the Barcelona exit door by beating the Catalans last weekend, succumbed this week to a Francisco Casquero goal in the 74th minute. Osasuna's relegation fears increased when they lost 1-0 at home to Villarreal.

Villarreal midfielder Josico gave Benito Floro's team three vital points against weak opponents. Josico's goal in the 31st minute of the first half proved enough for the Valencian side to defeat Javier Aguirre's men.

Malaga put bottom club Recreativo Huelva's recovery on ice by dishing out a footballing lesson in a 4-0 win over the strugglers. Recreativo had revived their supporters' hopes of an unlikely survival in the top-flight when they beat fellow strugglers Rayo Vallecano last week.

But the home side's striker Julio Cesar Dely Valdes brought them back down to earth with two goals and Romero and Genaro also chipped in with a goal each inside a four-minute spell midway through the second half.

In Sunday's final game, Fernando Sales netted a late winner as Real Valladolid fought back from a goal behind to claim a vital 2-1 win over relegation rivals Racing Santander. Pepe More's Valladolid went into the match desperate for three points, having crashed to a 3-1 home defeat to local rivals Alaves last week. And their supporters must have feared another disappointment was on the cards when they fell behind after just 13 minutes to a Pedro Munuiz strike.

However, Jose Manuel Chema levelled matters just four minutes later and Sales struck with eight minutes remaining to clinch three precious points for Valladolid and push Racing further in trouble. The visitors' efforts to try to salvage a draw were not helped when Claudio Arzeno was sent off for a second bookable offence just a minute after Sales' goal.

Atletico Madrid 3 - 0 Barcelona, Celta de Vigo 0 - 1 Sevilla, Deportivo Alaves 1 - 1 Rayo Vallecano, Osasuna 0 - 1 Villarreal, Real Betis 0 - 2 Deportivo La Coruna, Valencia 1 - 0 Mallorca, Valladolid 2 - 1 Racing Santander, Malaga 4 - 0 Recreativo Huelva, Espanyol 2 - 2 Real Madrid, Athletic Bilbao 3 - 0 Real Sociedad.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Sociedad	20	12	7	1	36	24	43
Real Madrid	20	10	9	1	42	21	39
Valencia	20	11	5	4	33	16	38
D Coruna	20	10	5	5	29	24	35
Real Betis	20	9	6	5	31	24	33
Celta Vigo	20	9	3	8	22	19	30
Atletico Madrid	20	7	7	6	32	26	28
Malaga	20	6	9	5	27	24	27
Mallorca	20	8	3	9	24	33	27
Valladolid	20	8	3	9	21	23	27
Sevilla	20	6	7	7	16	15	25
Athletic Bilbao	20	7	4	9	30	35	25
CD Alaves	20	6	7	7	26	31	25
Villarreal	20	6	7	7	21	23	25
Barcelona	20	6	5	9	27	28	23
Osasuna	20	6	5	9	22	26	23
Espanyol	20	6	3	11	24	31	21
Racing Santander	20	6	2	12	22	29	20
Rayo Vallecano	20	5	4	11	20	29	19
Recreativo Huelva	20	3	5	12	16	40	14

On Saturday, Barcelona crashed to their fourth successive league defeat in the Vicente Calderon as Atletico Madrid piled on the misery for the Catalans.

Looking to begin the post-van Gaal era with a win and put some distance between themselves and the drop zone, Barca instead remain just three points above the bottom three.

They desperately need Yugoslavian Radomir Antic, who was appointed coach on Friday, to work some magic and lift their spirits. Goals from Fernando Torres, Emerson and Luis Garcia flattered Atletico, but few cared as the Rojiblancos registered only their second win in seven outings.

Both sides finished the game with 10 men after Jose Mari and Fabio Rochemback were dismissed midway through the second half.



German Bundesliga



While Borussia Dortmund's valiant defence of their Bundesliga title continues, so does Bayer Leverkusen's freefall towards the second division.

Leverkusen committed footballing sin after sin on Sunday as they lost 2-0 to the side they battled long and hard with last season for the German title. Brazilian Ewerthon put Dortmund in front after three minutes after some sloppy defending, and he was then crudely hacked down by Leverkusen's Yildirim Basturk three minutes later.

Basturk was dismissed, leaving Leverkusen a man short for the remaining 84 minutes of the match - effectively leaving them with no chance against a potent Dortmund attack.

Dortmund doubled their lead in the 29th minute when Jan Koller fired the ball in after seeing his initial shot saved by Leverkusen goalkeeper Hans-Jorg Butt.

They strolled to victory from that point and returned to second place in the Bundesliga behind Bayern Munich, who had to draw on all of their experience to secure a goalless draw at Arminia Bielefeld on Saturday.

Playing without Mehmet Scholl and Ze Roberto, who were both suffering from the virus, and the suspended Michael Ballack, the Bundesliga leaders lacked creativity in midfield

and did not look like the dominating force they have been for most of the season. The closest Bayern came to scoring was six minutes into the game when Giovane Elber hit goalkeeper Mathias Hain with a powerful shot from the edge of the box after Detlef Dammeier had lost the ball.

Arminia remain unbeaten in six games while the Bavarians have not lost in their last eight games, with keeper Oliver Kahn not conceding a goal for 713 minutes.

Bayern's lead is seven points over Dortmund, with Werder Bremen a further two points back after they were surprisingly beaten by Hamburg on Sunday.

Kurt Jara's side gave their hopes of European qualification a shot in the arm and gained revenge for last season's 4-0 home thrashing by Werder into the bargain.



Silvio Adzic of Kaiserslautern and Christian Poulson of Schalke in action during the Bundesliga match between FC Schalke 04 and FC Kaiserslautern.

Sergej Barbarez netted the only goal of the game.

On Saturday Stuttgart kept up their push for a Champions League place with a 3-1 defeat of Hertha Berlin.

Ioannis Amanatidis put them in front in the 28th minute and Aleksander Hleb doubled the lead after 68 minutes to put the home side in charge. Marcelinho, who scored a last-gasp winner for Hertha against Borussia Dortmund last week, scored again in the 80th minute to give the visitors hope, but that was extinguished when Ioan Viorel Ganea bagged a third for the home side. A 90th-minute equaliser from Harry Koch gave struggling Kaiserslautern a welcome point at fourth-placed Schalke.

Victor Agali's goals in the fifth and 69th minutes looked set to propel the home side to victory, despite Tomasz Klos replying for Eric Gerets' side in the 31st minute.

But Koch intervened to save his side from another verbal pasting from club chairman Rene C Jaggi, who labelled them "clowns" after last week's 2-1 home defeat by Stuttgart.

A Rade Erika strike in the 43rd minute gave Hansa Rostock only their second win in 14 games. It was a great response by Hansa following their 4-1 hammering at home to 1860 Munich last week.

The three points lifted them further away from the relegation zone and above Nurnberg, whose troubles therefore deepened.

Energie Cottbus secured three vital points in their battle to avoid relegation as they beat Bochum 2-1 and moved off the bottom of the Bundesliga. Romanian midfielder Laurentius Reghecampf put Cottbus into the lead after just two minutes, but it took most of the rest of the game to find a second. Andrzej Juskowiak doubling the lead in the 83rd minute. Thordur Gudjonsson pulled one back for Bochum in the last minute, but Cottbus held on to avenge their 5-0 thrashing in the same fixture earlier this season.

Hannover claimed a much-needed win over high-flying 1860 Munich to boost their hopes of clambering away from the relegation

zone.

Nebojsa Krupnikovic struck the only goal of the game in the 26th minute, and Hannover keenly held onto that lead to discredit recent claims that their attacking adventure is not matched by defensive stability. The win lifted Hannover one place to 15th, outside the relegation zone, and relieved some of the pressure on coach Ralf Rangnick.

The weekend's final scheduled game - between Borussia Monchengladbach and Wolfsburg - was postponed due to bad weather.

Arminia Bielefeld 0 - 0 Bayern Munich, Energie Cottbus 2 - 1 Bochum, Monchengladbach v Wolfsburg (pp), Munich 1860 0 - 1 Hannover, Nurnberg 0 - 1 Hansa Rostock, Schalke 2 - 2 Kaiserslautern, Stuttgart 3 - 1 Hertha BSC, Borussia Dortmund 2 - 0 Bayer Leverkusen, Hamburger SV 1 - 0 Werder Bremen.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	19	13	4	2	39	14	43
Borussia Dortmund	19	10	6	3	31	15	36
Werder Bremen	19	10	4	5	36	30	34
VfB Stuttgart	19	9	6	4	32	24	33
Schalke	19	8	8	3	25	17	32
Hamburg	19	8	5	6	24	25	29
1860 Munich	19	8	4	7	29	26	28
VfL Bochum	19	7	5	7	34	31	26
Hertha Berlin	19	7	5	7	22	23	26
Arminia Bielefeld	19	6	6	7	23	26	24
Hansa Rostock	19	6	5	8	22	24	23
Wolfsburg	18	7	2	9	21	24	23
Nurnberg	19	6	3	10	24	30	21
Bayer Leverkusen	19	5	5	9	24	32	20
Hannover 96	19	5	5	9	25	35	20
Borussia M'gladbach	18	5	4	9	20	22	19
Cottbus	19	4	4	11	18	39	16
FC Kaiserslautern	19	3	5	11	20	32	14

FIXTURES

Sunday 9, February 2003

Hansa Rostock v Cottbus
Hannover v Nurnberg
Werder Bremen v 1860 Munchen
B.Munchen v Hamburger SV
Wolfsburg v Bielefeld
Kaiserslautern v M'gladbach
Hertha v Schalke
Bochum v Leverkusen
Stuttgart v Dortmund

Ethniki Katigoria

Nikos Liberopoulos scored twice as Panathinaikos retained top spot in Greece on Sunday with a late 2-0 win at Proodeftiki. In a game of few chances, the Greece international netted twice in two minutes as the Greens overtook Olympiakos, who scored a 1-0 win over OFI Crete 24 hours earlier. Liberopoulos headed home 27 minutes into the second half from defender Giourkas Seitaridis' cross.

And within two minutes, the 27-year-old beat his marker and hit a fine shot from the edge of the area. Liberopoulos' national team-mate Demis Nikolaidis announced his return from self-imposed exile with a strike in AEK Athens' 2-0 win over Giannina.

AEK again left it late, with midfielder Vassilis Lakis giving them the lead with 24 minutes remaining.

Lakis shot from deep after a cross from Nikolaos Georgeas.

Eight minutes on, Nikolaidis, starting a match for the first time since refusing to play due to a fall-out with the club's administration, announced his comeback with a short-range effort after Lakis capitalised on a mistake in the home defence.

There were also two goals in the second half of the game between Iraklis and Panachaiki, but they were shared between the teams.

Ederson Fofonka gave the home side the lead on the hour, but Panachaiki levelled through Armenian international Artavazd Karamyan with only nine minutes to go. Panionios defeated Aris Salonika 1-0 with a goal from Slovenian international Ermin Slijak after 20 minutes, while their capital city neighbours Aegaleo ground out a goalless draw with Ionikos.

Olympiakos kept pace at the top of the Greek table after a hard-earned 1-0 win at home to OFI Crete.

With the Rizopolis stadium coming under heavy criticism for the poor quality of playing surface in recent weeks, the game was played at Panionios' Nea Smirni stadium.

The change of venue and the torrential heavy downpour looked to favour the visitors as the championship chasers struggled to find any fluency against the mid-table outfit. After a goalless first half, the breakthrough finally came 17 minutes from time when Predrag Djordjevic's cross was headed home by Stelios Yannakopoulos.

PAOK Thessaloniki remain in touch at the top after a 1-0 win at home to Xanthi, with home supporters finally returning to the Toumba stadium for the first time in two months following their ban.

It proved to be a day to savour as PAOK ended the unbeaten away record of the visitors when Yiorgos Georgiadis rifled in the only goal of the game after 10 minutes.

Elsewhere, Akrotiros and Kallithea shared the spoils after a thrilling 3-3 draw, the hosts saving a point following an 89th-minute penalty.

Kallithea had roared ahead inside a minute when Kostas Pozapalidis headed into his own net.

The lead held until the half-time break, but the visitors were again quick out of the blocks as Tassos Kiriakos added a second in the 50th minute.

That sparked the hosts into life and Nikos Iordanidis reduced the deficit with a firm header four minutes later and Yiorgos Barkoglu levelled in the 57th minute.

The momentum again switched to the visitors when Yiorgos Savvidis made it 3-2 with 16 minutes remaining, but the real drama was yet to come.

Akrotiros continued to pour forward in search of an equaliser and were awarded a penalty, Yenemi Furo completing the scoring from the rebound.

Akrotiros 3 - 3 Kallithea, Olympiakos Piraeus 1 - 0 OFI Crete, PAOK Saloniki 1 - 0 Xanthi Skoda, Iraklis Saloniki 1 - 1 Panachaiki Patras, Panionios 1 - 0 Aris Saloniki, Egaleo Athens 0 - 0 Ionikos Nikea, Giannina 0 - 2 AEK Athens, Proodeftiki 0 - 2 Panathinaikos.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Panathinaikos	17	12	2	3	24	11	38
2. Olympiakos	17	10	6	1	38	10	36
3. PAOK	17	10	3	4	36	19	33
4. AEK	17	9	5	3	32	16	32
5. Panionios	17	9	4	4	20	12	31
6. Aris	17	7	5	5	18	19	26
7. Iraklis	17	7	4	6	22	18	25
8. Xanthi	17	5	8	4	19	14	23
9. OFI	17	5	6	6	20	19	21
10. Proodeftiki	17	5	6	6	17	17	21
11. Egaleo	17	4	8	5	13	20	20
12. Kallithea	17	3	6	8	16	24	15
13. Giannina	17	3	5	9	14	22	14
14. Ionikos	17	2	6	9	9	26	12
15. Akrotiros	17	3	3	11	15	34	12
16. Panachaiki	17	1	5	11	7	39	8

Dutch Eredivisie

Ajax made a sensational return to action after the winter break by hammering Willem II 6-0. Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice and further goals came from Andy van der Meyde, a Christian Chivu penalty, Tomas Galasek and Mido.

The win means second-placed Ajax maintain the pressure on Eredivisie leaders PSV, who beat RBC Roosendaal 3-0 on Friday and now have a two-point margin over Ajax.

Back in a distant third place, Feyenoord were also involved in a six-goal tussle on Sunday, getting the better of Twente Enschede 4-2.

Bonaventure Kalou got two for the Rotterdamers, who now trail Ajax by seven points, while Thomas Buffel and Robin van Persie were also on target.

Goals from Jurgen Cavens and Simon Cziommer proved in vain for plucky Twente who were in contention for a point until Van Persie got Feyenoord's fourth five minutes from the end.

In Sunday's other game Jochen Janssen scored the only goal for RKC Waalwijk as they emerged from the winter break to deepen Groningen's relegation worries and advance their own European ambitions.

Janssen's 69th-minute goal meant RKC climbed from seventh to fourth place in the Eredivisie.

In Saturday's action, high-flying NAC Breda were unable to emerge from their winter break with a victory as they were held at home by mid-table Heerenveen.

Finnish winger Mika Nurmela provided an excellent start for the visitors with a goal in the 23rd minute, but Hungarian defender Csaba Feher pulled Breda level five minutes before half-time.

The result comes as a blow to NAC coach Henk ten Cate after an unhappy winter break saw him clash with club bosses over taking a team doctor to the training camp in Surinam.

Elsewhere Alkmaar's pitch passed an inspection after being covered with a tarpaulin, and that was about the highlight of Saturday at the snow-threatened Eredivisie match.

NEC Nijmegen are chasing a place in next season's UEFA Cup, but they were lacking in cutting edge and the point will have been most welcomed by home side AZ who drew for just the third time in 17 matches this season and continued to stay comfortably clear of the drop zone.

They nudged up a place to 11th, three points behind ninth-placed NEC.

Saturday's games between De Graafschap and Utrecht and Excelsior and Roda fell foul of the cold snap.



Zlatan Ibrahimovic: Starred in Ajax's big win over Willem II.

PSV Eindhoven 3 - 0 RBC Roosendaal, De Graafschap v FC Utrecht (pp), Excelsior Rotterdam v Roda Kerkrade (pp), NAC Breda 1 - 1 SC Heerenveen, AZ Alkmaar 0 - 0 NEC Nijmegen, Feyenoord Rotterdam 4 - 2 FC Twente Enschede, RKC Waalwijk 1 - 0 FC Groningen, Willem II Tilburg 0 - 6 Ajax Amsterdam.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	18	14	3	1	45	10	45
Ajax	18	13	4	1	50	18	43
Feyenoord	18	11	3	4	44	22	36
RKC	18	8	4	6	19	23	28
NAC	17	6	9	2	23	13	27
Roda JC	17	7	5	5	30	25	26
Willem II	18	7	4	7	26	29	25
FC Utrecht	17	6	6	5	23	21	24
NEC	18	6	6	6	22	26	24
FC Twente	18	5	7	6	23	28	22
Heerenveen	18	5	6	7	25	30	21
AZ	17	6	3	8	27	40	21
Excelsior	17	4	6	7	20	29	18
Vitesse	17	4	4	9	17	20	16
RBC	18	4	4	10	20	32	16
FC Groningen	18	3	4	11	16	29	13
FC Zwolle	17	3	4	10	16	30	13
De Graafschap	17	3	4	10	18	39	13

FIFA World Ranking

Rank:	Team:	Points:
1.	Brazil	856
2.	France	787
3.	Spain	780
4.	Germany	765
5.	Argentina	750
6.	Netherlands	746
7.	Turkey	736
8.	England	734
9.	Mexico	732
10.	United States	723
11.	Portugal	710
12.	Denmark	707
13.	Italy	705
14.	Ireland Republic	697
15.	Czech Republic	687
16.	Belgium	686
17.	Cameroon	684
18.	Paraguay	679
19.	Yugoslavia	677
20.	Korea Republic	669
21.	Costa Rica	651
22.	Japan	650
22.	Russia	650
24.	Sweden	649
25.	Norway	648
25.	Romania	648
27.	Senegal	647
28.	Uruguay	643
29.	Nigeria	642
30.	South Africa	636
31.	Ecuador	634
32.	Croatia	629
33.	Poland	628
34.	Iran	627
35.	Morocco	623
36.	Slovenia	620
37.	Colombia	617
38.	Saudi Arabia	612
39.	Egypt	596
40.	Honduras	591
41.	Tunisia	586
42.	Bulgaria	582
43.	Finland	580
44.	Switzerland	576
45.	Ukraine	574
46.	Israel	568
47.	Trinidad and Tobago	566
48.	Greece	563
49.	New Zealand	562
50.	Australia	557
51.	Jamaica	555
52.	Iraq	554
52.	Wales	554
54.	Thailand	545
55.	Austria	541
56.	Slovakia	535
57.	Zimbabwe	533
58.	Hungary	532
59.	Ghana	529
60.	Scotland	528

French Ligue 1

The French title race is as open as ever after Bordeaux threw their hats into the ring with an impressive 3-1 home victory over Marseille. The south coast giants went into the weekend's round of games on top of the standings but, as has been proven again and again during this Ligue 1 campaign, that does not guarantee anything.

Pascal Feindouno gave Les Girondins the lead in the 57th minute and Jean Claude Darcheville added a second from the penalty spot six minutes later. Daniel Van Buyten bagged a goal for the visitors in the 89th minute, but Savio restored the hosts' two-goal lead soon afterwards.

Lyon missed the chance to go top in France after failing to capitalise on a late penalty. The defending champions were disappointing in the first half with Nantes' solid defence preventing Les Gones from creating any clear chances. Lyon were given the opportunity for a breakthrough in the 68th minute when Nantes keeper Mickael Landreau fouled striker Pegguy Luyindula. Referee Philippe Kalt had no hesitation in pointing to the spot but Landreau made amends by saving Juninho's penalty kick. Monaco made no such mistake, extending their unbeaten run to eight games with a 3-0 win over struggling Sedan at the Stade Louis II to take over at the top. With Marseille not playing until Sunday, Didier Deschamps' side knew victory would take them to the top of the table and they looked in the mood to get the result they needed, controlling the game from kick-off.

Visiting goalkeeper Patrick Regnault was in inspired form early on and it was a little hard on him when he was finally beaten 10 minutes before half-time, Johann Charpenet deflecting the ball into his own net.

Monaco doubled their lead six minutes before half-time when a powerful header from Sebastien Squillaci at the near post gave Regnault little chance. With eight minutes remaining the visitors were reduced to 10 men when Pierre Njanka was shown the red card following a second yellow card. Dado Prso completed the scoring four minutes from time, coolly slotting the ball past Regnault.

Nice continued their Ligue 1 odyssey on Saturday night by clinching maximum points over Breton minnows Guingamp.

The Mediterranean side, newly promoted this season, have led the league for much of the season and they are firmly in the title race.

They began Saturday night in fourth place and climbed back to second thanks to defender Noe Pamarot's 42nd-minute strike. Guingamp ended the match with 10 men after the sending-off of Florent Malouda.

He received his second yellow card for a bad tackle on Nice's Romain Pitau. Auxerre's young guns Djibril Cisse and Philippe Mexes claimed a convincing 2-0 win over Ligue 1 high-fliers Sochaux in front of a buoyant crowd in a snowy Abbe-Deschamps stadium. Cisse, the French World Cup striker, scored with 10 minutes before the interval while defender Mexes doubled the advantage with a powerful header in the 55th minute after Lionel Mathis's cross from the right.

Referee Gilles Vessiere inspected the pitch because of the bad weather and decided conditions were good enough to play. The match began 15 minutes late. Paris St Germain continued their unbeaten start to 2003 after Jose Aloisio hit the winner against struggling Strasbourg at the Meinau stadium. PSG, who also qualified for the Coupe de France's third round last Saturday by beating arch-rivals Marseille, never looked like giving up the three points against the Alsatian side.

The Brazilian striker proved to be the difference with his 60th-minute effort. Rennes had to come from behind to take a much needed point at home to Lens. John Utaka had fired the visitors ahead six minutes before half-time and they looked to be heading into the break with a cushion until Cyril Jeunechamp levelled seconds before the whistle to end the first half.

The first top-flight Corsican derby at Ajaccio since the 1972/73 season ended in disappointment for the home side as they relinquished a lead given to them near the end of the first half by former Bastia striker Bruno Rodriguez. For more than half an hour, his 39th-minute strike was looking increasingly likely to secure the derby honours for Ajaccio, but Franck Silvestre cropped up to head an equaliser in the 78th minute to earn Bastia a share of the spoils.

The draw means Ajaccio's relegation fears remain very real, even though they are unbeaten in five matches, while Bastia continue to look secure in mid-table and are undefeated in six games, with Europe still on their minds.

A last-gasp penalty from captain Jeremy Henin gave 10-man Le Havre victory over Troyes at Stade Jules-Dechaseaux Saturday.

With five minutes remaining, Florent Sinama Pongolle was sent through on goal, only to go down under a challenge from Stephane Cassard.

The Troyes keeper was lucky to stay on the pitch, and although he guessed the right way for Henin's spot-kick, he could not keep it out.

Troyes' Karl Tourenne was then sent off a minute later for stamping on Pongolle, following Jean-Michel Lesage who was red carded in the 67th minute for a second bookable offence. Troyes have now lost six in a row. They have not tasted victory since November 23.

Auxerre 2 - 0 Sochaux, Ajaccio 1 - 1 Bastia, Le Havre 1 - 0 Troyes, Lille v Montpellier (pp), Lyon 0 - 0 Nantes, Monaco 3 - 0 Sedan, Nice 1 - 0 Guingamp, Rennes 1 - 1 Lens, Strasbourg 0 - 1 Paris S.G., Bordeaux 3 - 1 Marseille.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaco	25	11	9	5	38	21	42
Nice	25	11	9	5	29	18	42
Marseille	25	12	6	7	26	23	42
Lyon	25	11	8	6	43	30	41
Auxerre	24	11	7	6	24	19	40
Bordeaux	24	11	6	7	34	23	39
PSG	25	10	9	6	32	21	39
Sochaux	24	10	7	7	25	20	37
Bastia	25	10	5	10	27	29	35
Lens	24	8	10	6	26	23	34
Guingamp	25	10	4	11	35	35	34
Nantes	23	9	5	9	27	27	32
Strasbourg	24	8	7	9	26	34	31
Le Havre	25	7	8	10	19	27	29
Lille	23	7	7	9	20	28	28
Rennes	25	7	6	12	22	28	27
AC Ajaccio	25	6	9	10	20	29	27
Sedan	24	7	6	11	26	38	27
Montpellier	24	3	9	12	19	33	18
Troyes	24	3	7	14	14	26	16

Scottish League

Chris Sutton marked his return to his favourite striking role with a clinical first-half double to keep Celtic on the tails of leaders Rangers with a 2-0 victory over Partick at Firhill.

Celtic manager Martin O'Neill has been using the Englishman in midfield to accommodate John Hartson in attack, a move which attracted recent criticism. And those claims appeared justified here as Sutton moved forward to replace the injured Welshman and quickly rediscovered his lethal partnership with Henrik Larsson.

It was no coincidence either that the Glasgow giants also looked more like their former selves upon the return of Neil Lennon, who had not played since suffering a knee injury in December and contributed a calming influence in midfield.

Celtic did not even miss the absence of Johan Mjallby, who has been ruled out for a month with a pulled thigh, in defence with Ulrik Laursen standing in. The champions had calls for a penalty rejected by referee Kenny Clark after just six minutes when Sutton went down in the box under the challenge of Kevin McGowne.

But justice was done from the resulting free-kick when Stilian Petrov's corner was flicked on by Joos Valgaeren before Larsson's shot was blocked. McNamara, however, was on hand to drill the ball through a crowded goal-mouth and Sutton stretched to divert the ball into the roof of the net from six yards. Partick were adding to their own problems by making mistakes in defence and it was David Lilley's failure to clear the ball which cost them another goal in the 33rd minute.

The ball came to him in the box after Didier Agathe had ghosted past two Partick players, but his clearance went straight to Sutton and he coolly curled the ball into the bottom corner.

The day's other game, Dundee's clash with Hibs at Dens Park, was abandoned after just 25 minutes.

Heavy snow forced a halt to proceedings with the home side leading through a 13th-minute goal from Fabian Caballero.

Dundee took the lead after 12 minutes and it was a wonderful passing move which undid the Hibs defence.

Garry Brady played a perfectly-weighted pass from the right channel to Nacho Novo, who then slipped a neat ball into strike partner Caballero, standing on the edge of the box.

The Argentine was then left with a clear sight of goal some 18-yards out and he coolly blasted the ball past Nick Colgan into the far corner. The Dens Park pitch had been covered by protective matting for much of this week, but a late flurry of snow in Angus on Sunday morning left the surface slippery and difficult to judge.

Conditions were made worse in the 20th minute when another downpour of snow started, cutting down visibility and making it increasingly difficult for either side to keep control of the ball.

Referee Alan Freeland introduced the orange ball.

In the 25th minute, Freeland decided to stall proceedings to give the groundstaff time to clear the pitch and removed the players from the field of play for 10 minutes. After some deliberation, the referee and his assistants decided to abandon.

Two goals from Michael Mols gave Rangers a precious 2-1 victory over Aberdeen to keep their lead at the top of the SPL.

The Dons had looked to be heading for a point when Steve Tosh struck in the 75th minute to cancel out the Dutchman's first half opener. But just minutes later Mols struck again to seal the points and maintain Rangers' 100% home record in the SPL.

Hearts clinched an important three points against Dunfermline as a 3-0 home win extended their lead in third place to seven points over the Pars. The Tynecastle side enjoyed the best of the chances in the first half of the game and they took the lead through Scott Severin right before the break.

Gary Wales doubled the advantage after the interval and there was more misery in store for Dunfermline when Scott Wilson was sent off late in the game and Kevin McKenna snatched the third goal in injury-time. Impressive Kilmarnock turned in their best display of the season to comfortably dispose of lacklustre Livingston 4-0.

Goals from Andy McLaren and Peter Canero gave the Rugby Park men a comfortable half-time lead, and when Kris Boyd slammed in a spectacular 25-yarder four minutes after the break, there was no way back for the home side.

In the 70th minute, McLaren grabbed his own second to complete the misery for Livi who have now failed to beat Kilmarnock in their last five meetings. Ten-man Dundee United got a first win for new manager Ian McCall after putting in a determined second-half performance to see off Motherwell 2-1. Charlie Miller, who was sensational for the home side, scored the winner on 68 minutes to lift his side off the bottom of the table.

The hosts scored through Andy Tod after only five minutes but were pegged back 15 minutes later when United goalkeeper Alan Combe conceded a penalty and was ordered off. Derek Adams netted the spot-kick but United had the last laugh thanks to Miller's winner.

Dundee United 2 - 1 Motherwell, Hearts 3 - 0 Dunfermline, Livingston 0 - 4 Kilmarnock, Rangers 2 - 1 Aberdeen, Partick Thistle 0 - 2 Celtic, Susp. FC Dundee 1 - 0 Hibernian.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	26	22	3	1	72	19	69
Celtic	26	21	3	2	67	16	66
Hearts	26	12	7	7	44	41	43
Kilmarnock	26	11	6	9	31	36	39
Dunfermline	25	11	3	11	39	45	36
Hibernian	25	10	4	11	36	38	34
Dundee	25	7	7	11	29	39	28
Livingston	26	7	5	14	34	41	26
Partick	26	5	9	12	26	42	24
Aberdeen	26	5	9	12	22	41	24
Dundee Utd	26	4	8	14	22	49	20
Motherwell	25	4	6	15	29	44	18

Alain's Corner



The French Riviera on Top

The green and gold are back in ten days to play their first game of the new season against England. Most of the top teams at this stage of the season experiment with new players so the Aussie assault on England is perfectly timed as Captain Paul Okon leads the team made of up our brightest young stars. Frank Farina selected his squad with only one new face, Vince Grella, one player doing very well with club Empoli.

The English will certainly put up a fight to the end to be sure they don't lose against Australia but they have to remember that the boys Down Under like a top game.

With wins against World Champion France and then against Brazil in the Confederation Cup, the Australians have proved that they can beat anybody on the day.

To be honest it won't be a surprise if we see Australia upset the Poms in a similar fashion with the Scots in Glasgow thirty months ago. Come on Aussies - Oi! Oi! Oi! We need a win to come back to the top or at least look forward to preparation for the next World Cup in Germany.

The week in France started with two rounds played in very difficult circumstances, the freezing cold, snowy weather and the end of the transfer market.

Not too many big moves on the open market this year except for Esnaider to Ajaccio. The ex -Juventino made his comeback from Argentina to try to establish himself for the end of his career in Europe.

Bordeaux lost two players more after Dugarry left for Birmingham when David Sommeil signed with Manchester City and Jerome Bonnisel went to Glasgow Rangers.

In Rennes, Antony Reveilleire took his chance with Spanish giant Valencia and Swiss international player, Alex Frei left Geneva for Rennes refusing a move to Charlton Athletic. A few new faces but nothing special in this very quiet transfer market.

Winner of the week is Marseille after beating Niza on Tuesday but losing in Bordeaux last night.

They are still on top of the league with a very surprising Monaco and Niza. The three team of the French Riviera are on top. Will Didier Deschamps won the league after only two seasons on the bench in Monaco, as did Arsene Wenger and Jean Tigana in the past.

It will be the biggest surprise of the year but Monaco is playing very good football and in this strange championship with seven teams sitting on six points at the top - how do we know that Paris Saint Germain, the more boring team of the league, may not be the potential Champion!

Go Marseille and stay focused unless you want your biggest enemy make you look ridiculous. The favourite still is Lyon and nobody will understand why they were toppled if this is the case.

The biggest budget in France, a top quality team, a full stadium for every game - they have all the reasons to capture the crown as Marseille in the nineties. If they are inconsistent, they too can lose their title - so take care.

Next week the games to watch are Monaco-Lyon, Marseille-Le Havre and Bastia versus Paris Saint-Germain.



Vince Grella: Selected in the Socceroos squad to take on England.

ALEX TOBIN — AUSTRALIA'S 500 MAN



ALEX TOBIN BIOGRAPHY

Position: Defender

Born: 3rd November 1965

Socceroo career:

'A' internationals: [1988-1998] 87* games (2 goals)

Non-A internationals: [1988-1999] 26 games (1 goal)

All internationals: [1988-1999] 113 games (3 goals)

Youth Representative Honours:

U/20 - 1985 World Youth Cup qualifiers

*** Australian record for 'A' Internationals**

National Soccer League career:

1984 - 2000 Adelaide City - 436 games (27 goals)

2000 - 2002 Parramatta Power - 48 games (4 goals)

2002 - 2003 Northern Spirit - 16 games (0 goals)

TOTAL NSL: 500 games (31 goals)



Design by Carlos Furtado